

Ministry looks at new council status

Heseltine plan to give cities their freedom

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE determination of John Major's government to take a fresh look at key policy areas was indicated last night with the disclosure that local government may be facing a new shake-up.

In one of his first acts as environment secretary, Michael Heseltine has told civil servants to investigate the feasibility of creating a new tier of metropolitan councils by allowing major cities to "opt out" of their surrounding counties.

An investigation of the practicability of re-creating what would effectively be autonomous county boroughs — a plan long cherished by Mr Heseltine — will be carried out at the same time as the most important item on his agenda, the government's promised review of the poll tax.

It emerged last night that the plan would also have considerable political benefits for the Conservative party, because removal of the largely Labour-held urban areas from shire counties would leave them Tory-dominated.

Eleven cities or towns which have indicated interest in becoming county boroughs are: Bristol, Cardiff, Derby,

Hull, Leicester, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Stoke on Trent and Swansea. However, as many as 60 towns or cities may eventually be eligible to opt out. If they did so, the Conservatives would gain control of seven county councils and deprive Labour of a majority on two others, according to research carried out for the *Municipal Journal*. These are Avon, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Humberside, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Wiltshire. Labour would lose control of Lancashire and Fife.

If both Hull and Grimsby were to opt out of Humberside, it would have the effect of bringing about the Boundary Commission's proposals without any formal action by the government. With the two main centres of population taken out of the county council structure, the remaining rural areas could simply be allocated to Lincolnshire and a revived East Riding of Yorkshire.

The 36 existing metropolitan districts gained the autonomous status that Mr Heseltine is proposing for their county cousins when the metropolitan counties and the Greater London Council were abolished in 1986. Cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham now control all services within their boundaries.

As well as the obvious political advantages for the Conservative party, which lost out heavily in last May's local government elections, the proposals would open the way for the abolition of unpopular, artificially created counties, such as Avon and Humberside, while allowing the government to retain the rest of the mainly Tory county councils.

Supporters of the plan believe that if Bristol and Woodspring, the district council which covers Weston-super-Mare and the towns on the Severn Shore, opted out then it would be simple to restore the rest of the county of Avon to Somerset and Gloucestershire.

On Humberside Labour-controlled Hull city council has already launched a cam-

paign for independent status and if Grimsby was also allowed to opt out the rest of the county could be split between Lincolnshire and the revived East Riding.

The prospect of a further reorganisation of local government rose sharply over the past seven days with the appointment of Mr Heseltine, a committed reformer, as environment secretary, and the publication of a Boundary Commission report proposing the dismantling of Humberside.

The redrawing of some local government boundaries may help ministers to sugar the pill of some of the financial consequences of reforming the poll tax. Mr Heseltine's proposal during the leadership election campaign to switch education from local authorities to Whitehall could add up to 10p in the pound to income tax.

At present only the largest 36 industrial cities have councils which control all services.

Outside the existing metropolitan district large cities such as Bristol, Cardiff, Leicester and Swansea are run by shire district councils. These "second tier" authorities have powers over planning and utilities but control of education, social services and strategic planning remains with the counties. Mr Heseltine would like to see them opt out of their counties and take full control of their own affairs in the same way as the metropolitan districts. In the case of Bristol such a move would also provide an opportunity to revive its former status as both a city and a county in its own right.

The belief that there are votes to be won at a general election in promising to restore traditional civic pride has galvanised supporters within the Conservative party to press for a commitment to change in the next Tory party manifesto.

Mr Heseltine has also argued for the introduction of American-style elected mayors. His theory is that regular elections of mayor would focus attention on the quality of services provided rather than the political programmes of councils.



Food parcel: a Soviet woman clutching supplies sent from Germany to Leningrad

Soviet envoy appeals for cash

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WITH food rationing imposed this week in Leningrad and other Soviet cities, for the first time since the second world war, Leonid Zamyatin, Moscow's ambassador in London, appeals, in a letter to *The Times* today, for financial rather than food aid for the Soviet Union.

Expressing his government's gratitude for offers of assistance, Mr Zamyatin emphasises that disadvantaged Soviet citizens would be best served by cash aid rather than blankets or food parcels.

As international concern grew last week at the difficulties in Soviet food supplies, the German government began sending 28,000 tonnes of emergency food rations and medical supplies and now is expected to urge its European Community partners to release £500 million of food aid to the Soviet Union.

The ambassador's letter, however, supports the view held by the British government that food-aid is not the best way of dealing with the problems, which stem from a breakdown in the distribution system rather than a lack of food supplies. The government will be urging the EC to promote a co-ordinated analysis of how best to reconstruct the Soviet distribution system rather than simply provide emergency food aid.

Minister sacked, page 8
Letters, page 13

Labour move to stop talk of challenge to Kinnock

By RICHARD FORD AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE Labour hierarchy yesterday moved to stamp out rumours about the future of Neil Kinnock's leadership as the party prepared to launch a series of policy documents aimed at seizing the initiative from the government.

Close supporters of Mr Kinnock and trade union leaders dismissed renewed speculation about his ability to lead Labour to victory at the next general election. They rallied to support him and insisted that no substantial figure in the parliamentary party is behind the criticism of his leadership.

The party leadership is confident that the erosion of Labour's support in the opinion polls is a temporary phenomenon resulting from the attention given to the Tory leadership struggle. Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, said yesterday that he believed Labour's opinion poll rating would improve by Christmas.

Saddam's war odds

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE chances of war in the Gulf now stand at "fifty-fifty", says President Saddam Hussein. He told a French television station that if the US wanted to make his forthcoming meeting with James Baker, the Secretary of State, a real path toward dialogue, "then we are closer to peace".

"But if they want to make this meeting nothing other than a formal exhibition for the American Congress, the American people or inter-

national public opinion, simply to give themselves good conscience... in that case, we're closer to war."

In Saudi Arabia yesterday British forces went on alert after surveillance aircraft detected Iraq missiles being test fired. Brent Scowcroft, the American national security adviser, said the firings were probably a gesture of defiance.

Baker hint, page 10
Peace conference, page 24

Germany elects Kohl as first chancellor of united country

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl yesterday became the first democratically elected chancellor of a united Germany since 1932, after his Christian Democrats (CDU) easily won the largest single share of the vote in nationwide polls.

However, early returns showed that the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) took a much larger share of the vote than had been expected, strengthening their hand in dictating terms for joining the government coalition.

Early results also showed that the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) failed to make any dent at all on the coalition's popularity and Oskar Lafontaine, their candidate for chancellor will have to fight hard within his own party if he is to be chosen again to lead another challenge. The Greens, who have been sidelined during much of the debate on unification, saw their support slipping in both sides of the country.

The special rules in this election have enabled the communists' Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) to win enough votes in the east of the country to hold a few seats in the Bundestag.

The early results indicated that with 45.0 per cent of the vote, the CDU-CSU alliance would win 303 seats, compared with the 305 they hold now. The SPD, with 33.4 per cent, were set to take 225 seats compared with 226. The FDP, with 10.3 per cent, should get 69 seats, 12 more than before. The Greens with the east German Alliance '90 had 6.6 per cent, which is worth 45 seats compared with 48 in the old Bundestag. The PDS, with 2 per cent nationally, can

expect to have 14 seats instead of the 24 they were allocated on unification.

Bad weather and poll weariness in the eastern part affected the turnout, which was well down on the 93 per cent that voted in elections to the Volkskammer last March. In the west, too, the weather played its part, along with a widespread feeling that the result was a foregone conclusion that there was little point in bothering to vote. The turnout everywhere in the west was down compared with the 84 per cent in 1987 and 89 per cent when Herr Kohl won his first election in 1983.

Although the big losers in the election were the SPD, Herr Kohl has little to be pleased about. The CDU scored no better than they had four years ago in the last election in January 1987, when Herr Kohl suffered a severe electoral setback. His CDU-CSU alliance then lost 21 seats while the FDP and the Greens picked up 27 seats between them. In 1983, when he first won as chancellor, his alliance took 48.8 per cent of the vote, coming within a whisker of achieving an overall majority.

This time, despite the chancellor's immense personal popularity over unification, the CDU failed to match that score. Given that the economy in the west is booming and experts predict it to go on prospering, the results suggest that Herr Lafontaine did succeed in worrying people about their future under the CDU. But voters appear to have turned to the FDP rather than to the opposition. "The election has come six months too early for us," Herr Lafontaine told frustrated party workers.

Unification has meant that there are 144 extra seats in the Bundestag for members chosen by the eastern part of the country. It has also meant that for the first time West Berlin has been able to send members to the Bundestag with full voting rights. Berlin, which has been ruled by a coalition of SPD and Greens for the past two years, provided the most satisfactory result for the CDU, which is poised to take control of the entire city. This could further help Berlin's chances of becoming the new seat of government.

Herr Kohl will not be formally chosen as chancellor until the first meeting of the Bundestag in Berlin on December 20.

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Leading article, page 13

Coalition rejected, page 8
Leading article, page 13

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UK still opposed to single currency

From MICHAEL BINYON IN MILAN

MAKING his debut as chancellor on the European stage, Norman Lamont yesterday repeated Britain's opposition to a single European currency, in spite of a warm welcome from all its partners for draft statutes giving a new central European bank sweeping powers to take charge of economic and monetary policy.

Mr Lamont, however, signalled Britain's willingness to work as closely as possible with its partners, and said that he believed a compromise could be found at the inter-governmental conference, which begins in Rome in two weeks' time.

He said that there was still support for aspects of John Major's plan for a hard ecu. Britain would make a "positive contribution" in the debate on the next two stages of EMU. In spite of his rejection of stage three and the

need for a single European central bank, he suggested that there was less likelihood now of a single currency being "imposed" on Britain, as had

Continued on page 24, col 2

Bankers agree, page 25
Economic view, page 27



Lamont yesterday: hope of a compromise

Memories of the Tube in the Channel tunnel

From MATTHEW BOND IN THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

ONE day old and the Channel tunnel was already doing a convincing impersonation of London Underground's Northern Line. Normal service, that is the VIP trips from Folkestone to Sangatte, had been withdrawn. There were, said the man from Eurotunnel, operational difficulties.

Nevertheless, we were to travel to the historic breakthrough point, where Graham Fagg and Philippe Cozette had on Saturday jack-hammered their way into the history books. So, after about two hours clattering along the newly completed service tunnel on an ill-lit "man-rider" (just like a Northern Line carriage without the advertisements) we reached the now famous hole.

With Saturday's VIPs departed, it was rather like arriving for a party only to discover it had been the day before.

"Come on English," beckoned an enthusiastic French tunneller briefly lifting our spirits. But a few minutes later the warmth of his *bienvu* rather waned when he asked if I had *argent* to pay for the lump of "historic rock", I had just pocketed. After all, he said, it was part of France. After some remonstrations (in the spirit of the venture I argued that it was a piece of Europe) we agreed that after all it could be a present.

The service tunnel breakthrough was a milestone for Eurotunnel, developer of the project. It should have persuaded any waverers among its shareholders to take up their rights ahead of this afternoon's deadline when the company's £2.6 billion re-

financing is finally completed. But my own modest moment of history had come half an hour or so earlier, when the man-rider stopped at what our guide assured us was the deepest point of the tunnel, some 70 yards below the seabed and 390 ft below the surface.

That point marked the end of a personal pilgrimage charting the high and the lowest low of Margaret Thatcher's privately funded Britain. For, a couple of days earlier, a rickety construction hoist had taken me 800 ft above London up the outside of the 50-storey skyscraper at the heart of the Canary Wharf project on the Isle of Dogs. With both visits complete, I had visited a £3 billion to £4 billion high and a £7 billion to £8 billion low of two private-sector projects. The two have much in common. To start with they

are both very big. Canary Wharf is the largest property development in Europe, and Eurotunnel is the largest infrastructure project in the world. Both are closely linked to Mrs Thatcher.

Olympia and York, the Canadian developer of Canary Wharf, finally committed itself to the project just a month after the Tories' election victory in June 1987. Eleven months later, the then prime minister drove the first pile into the London clay.

The Channel tunnel is also intimately linked to the Thatcher years. Work began six months after the 1987 election at the same time as the Eurotunnel raised its first £6 billion of debt and equity.

New phase, page 7
Diary, page 12

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By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

The NFU is arguing for a policy of "supply management," code language for compulsory production restraints, similar in effect to those in force in the dairy sector, coupled with the maintenance of price support and protection against cheap imports from outside the Community.

Among other things, the NFU wants the "set aside" scheme, whereby cereal growers are paid to take part of their land out of production, to be made compulsory. This would be



ing a 23-year replacement cycle. Forty per cent of registered tractors were more than 10 years old.

Two hundred animal welfare activists staged what has become a ritual demonstration in the street outside the exhibition hall.

They waved banners and shouted "meat is murder" as members of the Vegetarian Society presented show officials with wreaths mourning the deaths each year of more than 600 million animals and poultry in British slaughterhouses.

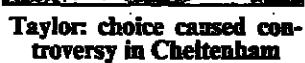
By PETER VICTOR

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, said he was also writing to the prime minister over the allegations.

A spokesman for the industry department said: "We do not generally discuss li-

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

Mr Taylor was put forward to the Cheltenham party membership as the sole nomi-



By JOHN SHAW

Mr Major attended a private constituency fund-raising event on Saturday night. Photographers were allowed a three-minute picture session in the garden on Saturday, but were told not to ask questions.

By ADAM FRESCO

Mr Taylor was put forward to the Cheltenham party membership as the sole nomi-



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Magistrates fight plan to fine child offenders' parents

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES are to fight government proposals obliging them to fine parents for the offences of their children under the criminal justice bill, now at committee stage in the Commons.

Joyce Rose, chairman of the 28,000-member Magistrates' Association in England and Wales, said that magistrates saw the proposals as a fetter on their discretion. "We support parental responsibility, it is extremely important. But the family of these youngsters is often such a fragile unit that we have to be very careful not to destroy what structure there is."

Mrs Rose said that some of the measures could be counter-productive. Many families needed help rather than punishment. Magistrates already had many of the powers proposed, she added. They could fine parents unless it was unreasonable to do so, and they had the power to bind parents over. "We will press the government to allow us to retain this discretion and to leave the situation as it is."

Mrs Rose, aged 61, outlined other priorities for her three-year term of office. She highlighted plans to improve the image of the magistracy, improve greater consistency in sentencing and continue opposition to Home Office plans for a fundamental overhaul of the magistracy's court service.

One priority was to dispel the image of the magistracy as being removed from ordinary people, Mrs Rose said. The lay justices were entering a period of magisterial glamor and welcomed the opportunity to explain what they did.

"It is important that the public should understand the work we do. It needs explaining, so people understand we are members of the community in which we live."

That was vital from the point of view of recruitment. "There is a problem with people feeling we are an elitist,



Rose: proposals are seen as a fetter on discretion

exclusive group, which we are not. They feel they cannot possibly put their names forward. People need to be encouraged to do that, although there can be no promise of acceptance."

Initiatives were under way, in co-operation with the Lord Chancellor's department, to improve the magistracy's image, she said. Branches were being encouraged to hold meetings to explain their work to local people, trade unions, chambers of commerce and the media.

In addition, a pilot project had been started in Brent, northwest London, in which young JPs were trained to be sent into schools and colleges to talk about their work. If successful, the scheme could be extended nationally.

On sentencing, over which magistrates find themselves constantly under attack, Mrs Rose said that there was some support for a sentencing council or commission in the association, but that "there are so many proposals that before one could comment one has to know what is proposed."

She said that the association was moving with the times in its plans to improve consistency in sentencing, with a new set of guidelines for traffic and non-traffic offences. Such guidelines have already been issued for the 20 most common non-traffic offences.

"We are looking at consistency. But we are not computers," Mrs Rose said. "We have to use our judicial discretion and that depends on the circumstances of the offence and of the offender. That does not mean, though, that we cannot work by training, by guidelines and by communication to improve consistency."

On Home Office plans to centralise the administration of magistracy courts, either through a new national agency or regional boards, Mrs Rose made it clear that she would continue the association's line of fighting to preserve the independence of justices and ensuring that the service remained a local one. The proposed options, estimated at £50 million each, would, in her view, lead to excessive expenditure and bureaucracy.

"We are always prepared to change and adjust and have done so. But we do not believe in change unless it is change for the better and not just for the sake of change."

The association hoped that it would continue to be consulted and have its views taken into account before any final decision was made, she said. Where there were defects in the running of the service, many stemmed from inadequate funding for the proper staffing of courts.

Proper resources were also important to the success of the government's aim to encourage more use of community penalties under the criminal justice bill. JPs supported these aims, she said, but they would work with the resources only "to make the alternatives realistic and reliable and they are not there at present. Much needs to be done which has great resource implications."

Benches short of wage-earners

GREAT strides have been made in recent years in making the composition of the magistracy more representative of society as a whole but there is still a shortage of wage-earners and JPs from the ethnic minorities, particularly in some parts of the country (Frances Gibb writes).

In any year, the magistracy needs to recruit about 1,800 people, partly to make up for the annual loss of some 500 justices, but also to deal with the expanding workload of the courts. JPs come from a wider range of backgrounds, but there are still areas such as the Home Counties where the image of the middle-class, white and middle-aged bench holds true.

Of 28,600 JPs in England and Wales, 12,600 are women. The Lord Chancellor has tried to

boost the numbers from the ethnic minorities and that has risen from 1.77 per cent of the total in 1980 to six per cent now. Magistrates are recommended for appointment by advisory committees made up of magistrates and other people of "high standing" in the community such as doctors or vicars. The final decision is the Lord Chancellor's.

People wanting to be considered for the bench can submit their names forward: press advertisements appear regularly. Trade unions, chambers of commerce and other organisations are also encouraged to propose suitable people. Employers are being encouraged to be ready to release people for the magistracy. Advisory committees are writing to tell employers what the commitment will be.

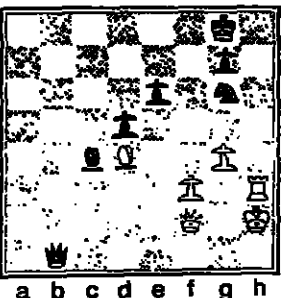
Karpov placed under pressure

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

FOR game 16 of the World Chess Championship in Lyons, Gary Kasparov, the world champion playing white, again used the Scotch Game opening which he introduced in game 14.

His decision was justified by an inaccuracy on the 11th move, which enabled him to seize the bishop pair and establish a superior pawn structure. Karpov suffered from almost continual time pressure after using 100 of his 150 minutes for 40 moves on the first 19 moves.

Karpov tried to solve his difficulties by sacrificing a pawn. To maintain the pawn advantage, Kasparov had to loosen his own position on both flanks and Karpov gained some counterplay by



The adjourned position

exposed white king will make a further draw inevitable. The match score is now 7½ points each with the 16th game adjourned. Kasparov sealing his 41st move.

White: Kasparov			
1 E4	d5	21 B4	15
2 Nf3	c6	22 Bg5	16
3 d4	exd4	23 Ng5	17
4 Nxd4	Nf6	24 Qd4	18
5 Nc3	g6	25 Qd2	19
6 e5	g7	26 Nd2	20
7 Qe2	Nd5	27 B4	21
8 f4	g8	28 Nd4	22
9 Nf3	h6	29 Bf1	23
10 B2	g5	30 Bf3	24
11 Bg5	h5	31 B5	25
12 Qd2	h4	32 Qd2	26
13 Qd5	h3	33 B4	27
14 Qd6	h2	34 Bb1	28
15 Bf1	h1	35 Bg2	29
16 Rf2	Qg6	36 Bg3	30
17 B3	Bf5	37 Q2	31
18 B4	Bf4	38 Bb1	32
19 B5	Rac8	39 Q2	33
20 Rxd2	Rac8		

Adjourned

Arts Council chief supports national lottery

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, has added his support to moves to establish a national lottery which could raise nearly £500 million for the arts in Britain a year.

He said yesterday that the political changes of the last week had brought the prospect of a lottery, which would also benefit the environment and sport, closer. He added that he thought it would be brought before Norman Lamont, chancellor of the exchequer, early in the new year.

"It works well, in general, in Europe, Ireland, Australia and other countries, and there is no reason why it shouldn't work well here," he said. "If this is sinful money, let's put it to virtuous uses," he added, echoing Lord Charteris, the chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, in a House of Lords debate in February when he described Britain as

a nation of inveterate gamblers. Mr Palumbo's comments came after an informal meeting last week with Denis Vaughan, secretary of the new Lottery Promotions Company set up to lobby for a national lottery and which now has the Earl of Harewood as a director as well as Eddie Kukulundis, the impresario and Lord Birkett.

Mr Palumbo stressed that his view was not necessarily that of the Arts Council. "The council has not yet discussed it, but I would expect it to be well debated when it does and I will support the idea," he said.

The government is understood to be under new pressure to consider the idea which is thought to have the private sympathy of a number of ministers. Kenneth Baker, the new home secretary, has been encouraging in the past as has David Mellor, formerly arts minister, now chief secretary to



Palumbo: political changes have brought plan closer

Dolphin's retirement thwarted by illness

By WILLIAM CASH

PLANS for Rocky the dolphin to retire to the Caribbean as a reward for 20 years of aquatic performances were dashed yesterday when a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries inspector ruled Rocky could not leave because of an irregular blood test.

The dolphin, a veteran star of Marineland in Morecombe, Lancashire, was to fly from Heathrow to the West Indies, where a specially created 85-acre lagoon awaited him in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The rescue mission, *Into The Blue*, to return Rocky to the sea, was being financed by the *Mail on Sunday* and co-ordinated by ZooCheck, an animal charity headed by Born Free star Bill Travers.

The 20-hour operation was to have been filmed by the BBC. Rocky spent what was meant to be his last week in Britain at the Flamingo Land Dolphinarium, near Malton, north Yorkshire, recuperating after the heating system broke down at Morecombe. A vet diagnosed a blood disorder and treated him with antibiotics.

Dolphin trainers and vets said the move from Yorkshire to tropical waters could kill Rocky and accused the BBC of exploiting a sick animal.

Peter Bloom, curator of Flamingo Land, said: "We are not trying to stop Rocky being taken to the West Indies. We are concerned about his health and welfare and in our opinion — and the opinion of several vets — he is not fit to travel."

"ZooCheck and the BBC do not seem concerned about Rocky's health and welfare — only the filming schedule. It is disgraceful."

On Wednesday, however, Deane Beusse, the Florida vet who was hired by ZooCheck to look after Rocky on his trip, pronounced him fit to travel. But as a British Airways container lorry was waiting to take him to Heathrow, a Ministry of Agriculture vet ruled that Rocky was not fit for the international flight.

The *Mail on Sunday* immediately arranged for a High Court injunction to be served on Mr Bloom and later issued a statement saying that the motive behind the delay was that Mr Bloom wanted Rocky to mate with the female dolphins at Flamingo Land.

Attack on Christian Aid chief's Labour appeal

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

SENIOR churchmen have criticised the head of a Christian charity for lending his name to an appeal for Labour party funds.

The Rev Michael Taylor, director of Christian Aid, has attacked the government in an advertisement in the latest issue of the *Baptist Times*. In it he says that he is unhappy with the government's record. "Before things get worse, I want to see Labour back in power, and a Britain which puts social justice first. Labour needs extra income to fight the next election."

Canon Eric James, a chaplain to the Queen and director of Christian Aid, appeals for funds for the Labour party in the *Church Times* and the *Church of England Newspaper*. John Battle, Labour MP for Leeds West, appeals in the *Catholic Herald* and Lord Soper appeals in the *Methodist Recorder*. Each advertisement is similar and begins: "As a Christian, I am very unhappy with this government's record."

They are based on a draft written by Lord Soper, former president of the Methodist Conference and president of the Christian Socialist Movement.

Fr Philip Ursell, principal of Pusey House, Oxford, and a leading Anglo-Catholic, said that the advertisements were "perhaps just a little bit dishonest and deceitful". He said on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday programme* that it was rather foolish of Mr Taylor to take a political stance. Supporters would not want to see Christian Aid suffer from Michael Taylor's direct alignment with a political viewpoint.

Mr Taylor, director of Christian Aid since 1985 and former principal of the Northern Baptist College, Manchester, said: "I did this in a personal capacity as a baptist. I very carefully left Christian Aid out of it. I do not think there is anything that people can criticise. I did what I felt to be right."

Sir Cyril Black, former president of the Baptist Union Council, said: "I am amazed that the *Baptist Times* has published anything like that. The baptist community does not take a line of favouring one party or another. It seems to me it is not the kind of thing most baptists will look on with much favour."

Fr Ursell said: "Many of these directors and secretaries of organisations which shelter

under vaguely Christian umbrellas are in fact people who have opted out of mainstream Christian ministry. They shelter behind their desks where they are able to indulge their doctrinaire views out of reach of parishioners who would perhaps have kept them in touch with reality."

Ann Widdowcombe MP, junior minister for social security, said: "He might consider whether or not he will be offending a great many Christians, not all of whom will be subscribing Conservatives, but a great many Christians who do not want to see the church mixed up in politics. I am sure that if he does alienate people they may well look for other outlets to put their money."

Peter Dawe, chairman of the Christian Socialist Movement, which is affiliated to the

Labour party, said the advertisements were paid for by an appeal launched in October. The aims of the "Christians for Labour" appeal are to campaign for a change of government.

"Michael Taylor is primarily a baptist and it was in that capacity we asked him. He is not a member of the Christian Socialist Movement."

Efforts to achieve a just solution in the Gulf without recourse to military action must be given every opportunity to succeed. Roman Catholics throughout Britain were told yesterday.

The message from the catholic bishops of England and Wales, read in all churches on the first Sunday in Advent, urged those in authority still to weigh carefully whether or not to go to war even if all other efforts fail.

Disgraced vicar at RC service

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE vicar who committed adultery with his curate's wife and a married parishioner joined the congregation at a service in a Roman Catholic church yesterday.

The Rev Tom Tyler, who has been ordered out of his parish in the West Sussex village of Henfield but was not unfrocked, decided not to worship at the morning service at St Peter's, Henfield where he was vicar for 12 years. He and his wife Trisha went instead to mass at the Corpus Christi Catholic church next door.

The Rev David Roderick, preaching at St Peter's, said:

"Advent is the season of repentance. It is so easy to judge others, forgetting that we have so often broken God's laws ourselves. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. We should not judge others too harshly." The Rev Anne McNeil, assistant deacon, said he had not been banned from the church. "It was his decision not to come. As far as I'm concerned he's welcome."

Mr Tyler was found guilty of five counts of adultery after a seven-day consistory court hearing in Chichester. The charges formed the basis of an indictment of conduct unbefitting a clerk in holy orders,

which has been brought against a Church of England priest only once before.

Judge Quentin Edwards QC, who presided over the hearing, pronounced sentence on the disgraced vicar. He removed him from his preferment at Henfield and disqualified him from any other living unless the Archbishop of Canterbury or the bishop of Chichester decide otherwise.

Although the Rt Rev Eric Kemp, bishop of Chichester, decided not to depose Mr Tyler from holy orders, there is no likelihood of another job in the church.

Unbecoming conduct, page 19

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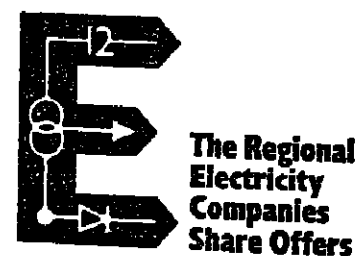
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12



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مَكْزَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

Water company says streamlined working means fewer unions

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest water company has told its 9,000 employees that it is to make radical changes in operating methods to achieve more efficiency and justify investment of more than £1 million a day for the next ten years. Thames Water will also cease to recognise some unions it presently deals with over pay.

In return for changes in work practices, designed to eradicate demarcation lines, increase training, improve quality and bring an end to inter-union rivalry, Thames is offering employees a benefits package that includes an eventual reduction in the working week for blue collar workers from 38 to 36 hours.

The aim is to establish common terms and conditions of employment for all, regardless of the job done, so that traditional distinctions between staff, craft and man-

ual grades will disappear. As part of the plan, the company, which was floated on the stock market last December, has won the agreement of its white-collar staff to increase their working week by one hour to 36 hours, in return for a 2.8 per cent pay rise.

Richard Marshall, the company's group personnel director, believes that outmoded employment terms must be changed if Thames is to increase its efficiency, and serve its 7.5 million customers into the next century.

Under the proposals, to be introduced over the next four or five years, Thames intends to sweep away the present system of pay bargaining and introduce performance related pay on top of a basic salary for the job. The company also plans to encourage increased efficiency by tying-in part of the pay to the company's

overall performance. Officials of the seven unions with which Thames presently negotiates have been told that the company can no longer afford the time for separate negotiations and that, by the 1992-3 pay round, there must be one process of "single-table" bargaining.

An internal memorandum to Thames managers says: "Our aim is to achieve a more streamlined and flexible joint negotiating machinery and we do not have a pre-set number of unions with which we wish to deal. Having said that, we do expect to reduce the number of unions we recognise for bargaining purposes."

The company will expect all employees to achieve an appropriate skill level and that it aims to make certificated national vocational qualifications routine throughout the company.

Employees who have not had the opportunity to train or to study for qualifications, but who are experienced and competent will not be expected to retrain and will not be at a disadvantage in looking for promotion.



Suspended sentence to launch LawAid '90, the legal profession's week-long attempt to raise £1 million for the homeless, barrister Sallyann Hunter, absconded down the front of the Law Society's headquarters in central London yesterday

Paintings' estimates believed too high

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE art world is curious to learn if Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger* (O. J. R. M.) will reach their estimates of up to £8 million and £10 million respectively tonight when they go under the hammer at Christie's.

Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*, a painting from the same early period when the artist had just arrived in Paris at the age of 20, saved the day at Christie's June auction when it sold for £13.75 million.

However, there is a feeling that the estimate for tonight's painting is too high. The fortunes of the Elizabeth Taylor Van Gogh are fuelled on the one hand by the same "star factor", which helped boost Greta Garbo's *Renoir* in New York last month, but the consensus could be that the work is again not worthy of the estimate.

Tomorrow night is the turn of Sotheby's, who have replaced their auctioneer Julian Barran with Melanie Clore. It will be the first time one of these crucial sales, from which the auctioneers have made by far their greatest profits in recent years, will be conducted by a woman.

Nuclear plant 'will be financial failure'

By NICHOLAS WATT

ELECTRICITY consumers will have to pay for the "financial failure" of the £1.85 billion thermal nuclear reprocessing plant (Thorp) being built at Sellafield, according to an independent report commissioned by Greenpeace, the environmental pressure group.

The report, published today, says that reprocessing spent nuclear fuel at Thorp would cost up to four times more than storing fuel at its production plant. If British Nuclear Fuel (BNFL) took up the storage option, it would save up to £1.5 billion in the first decade of Thorp's operation. Greenpeace claims that BNFL's increased charges and is considering pulling out of reprocessing to store its spent fuel.

The report, by the science policy research unit at Sussex university, concludes that the nuclear industry's original justification for building Thorp is no longer valid, and that reprocessing fuel there would cost up to £3.7 billion, compared to £1.3 billion to store the fuel.

A spokesman for BNFL dismissed the report as "misleading and inaccurate".

Land registry is opened up after 100-year secrecy

From today, anyone can get details of who owns a particular home or plot and the name of any mortgagee, Christopher Warman reports

NOT only has an Englishman's home been his castle but until today he has had the extra protection of keeping from prying eyes the details of exactly who owns the bricks and mortar which surround him.

From today a change in the law means that the Land Registry which keeps the details of the 13 million registered titles is open to inspection by outsiders without the authority of the owner of the property. The effect will be that if anyone wants to know whether the young couple next door own their house or flat in joint names and whether they paid cash or have a mortgage, he or she should be able to find out.

For the past 100 years the ownership of land has remained a secret, available only to the registered owner or mortgagee or a person authorised by them. Now the 13 million registered titles held by the registry's 18 district offices will be open to public inspection.

"This means that England and Wales will join Scotland, Northern Ireland and most overseas countries in having an open land register," John Fryer, chief land registrar, said, ushering in



Fryer: 13 million titles for anyone to inspect

the change. About 8 million titles will still be unavailable for inspection, since they are not on the register.

These include crown land, land owned by government and some of the larger estates that have never appeared on the register because compulsory registration of title, first introduced in England and Wales in 1937, occurs when land or property is sold. Any property still held by the same owners since before that date may not have been registered.

Pointing out this anomaly, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors nonetheless welcomes the initiative.

"It marks a clear stride towards gaining access to, and making use of, publicly held land information and the future objective of a comprehensive, integrated and structured land information system."

The opening of the register means that anyone can obtain details of who owns particular land and property, the nature of the tenure, and whether there is a mortgage or other financial burden and the name of the mortgagee.

While such openness is generally welcomed, the question of the invasion of privacy arises. Patrick McLoughlin, of the London law firm Theodore Goddard, says that developers trying to assemble a site for development will be able to discover who owns the plots required and will then be able to approach the owners directly with offers to buy. "Estate agents' junk mail encouraging owners to sell may now be addressed personally rather than impersonally to the occupier, and tenants holding long leases will more easily discover the identity of their landlords without the nuisance of corresponding with managing agents."

The new open access will also obviously be useful to private investigators and indeed investigative journalists.

There are limits to the new powers. Applicants are not entitled to see copies of mortgages or leases, so the amount owed by a landowner to his bank on a mortgage will not be disclosed; neither will an unauthorised person be able to pry so far as to find out what obligations are owed by a tenant to his landlord under a lease.

"Crafty conveyancers are also likely to utilise drafting techniques designed to keep price sensitive information off the register to protect the financial privacy of their clients," Mr McLoughlin suggests.

The ease with which information will be available depends on the register's progress towards computerising its records, due to be completed by 1993.

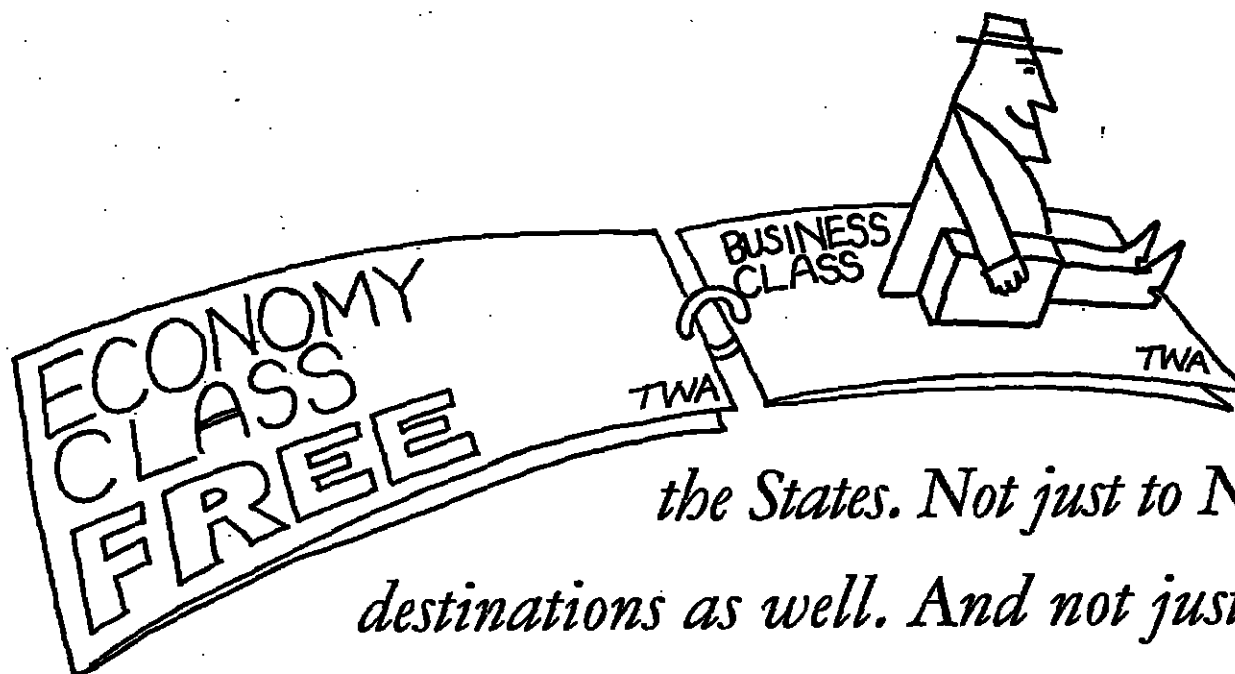
The Empty Property Unit, a housing charity promoting the use of empty properties for homeless and badly housed people, says an open land register will be an invaluable tool for the many housing associations, housing co-operatives and housing campaign groups which have identified empty properties and want to negotiate their use with owners but cannot find out who owns them.

Opening the register is not without its bureaucracy, involving obtaining and filling in forms, but personal inspection can be made for a fee. The basic charge is £6, and a personal inspection of the register, the title plan and any document referred to is £12.

The registry recommends that people seeking information should apply by post for the appropriate form. A personal inspection of the register can be made by completing another form when visiting the registry, but as this new facility becomes available, the register asks that applicants should give at least four days' notice of their intention to make a personal inspection.

A leaflet explaining the procedure for gaining information from the register either by post or personal visit is available from the Land Registry's London headquarters or from any of the 18 districts in England and Wales.

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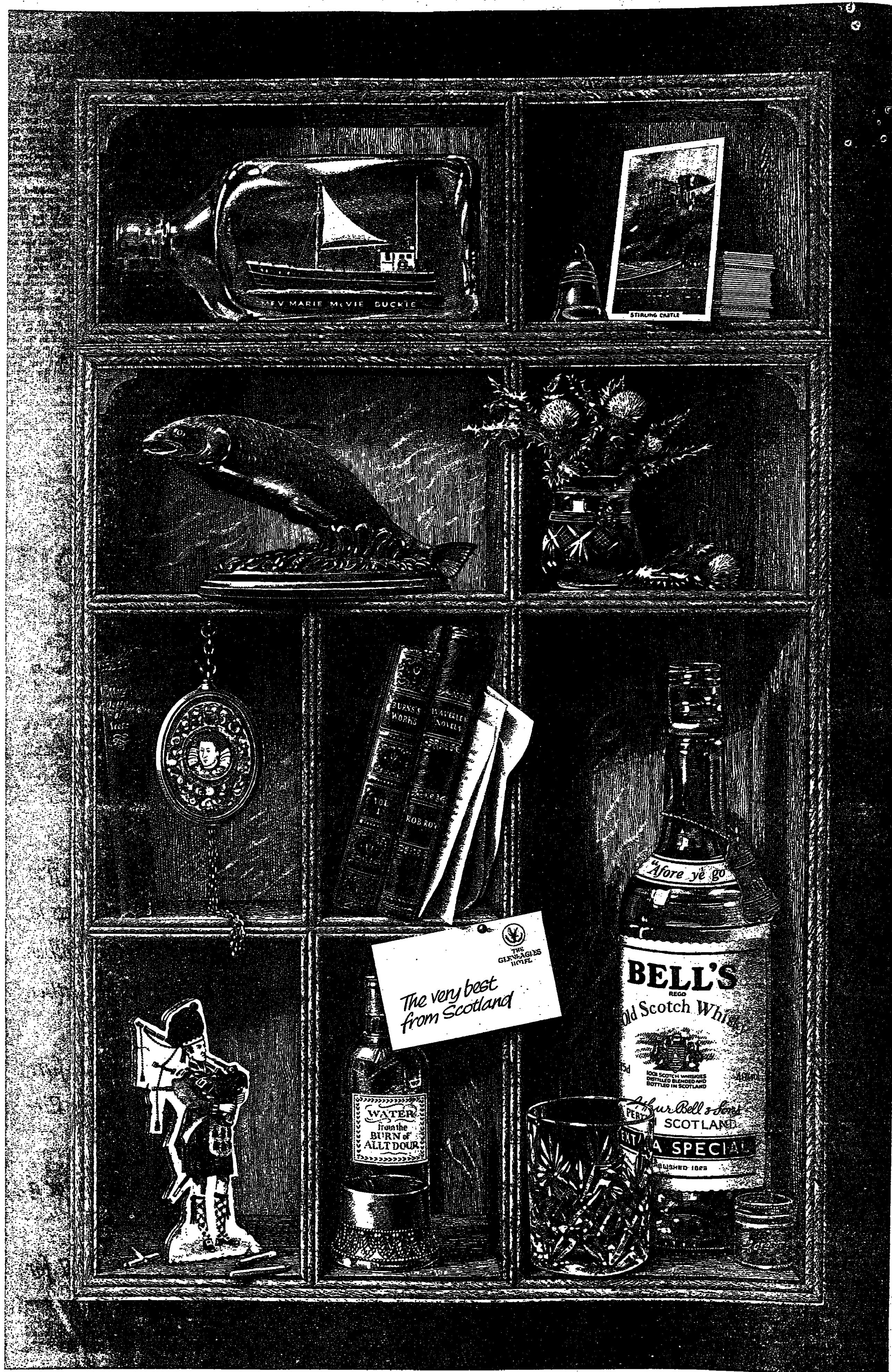
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Conflicting pressures over granting Heathrow routes to United

Airline dilemma faces minister

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Rifkind, the transport secretary, has inherited one of the most intractable problems confronting the government which can lead, at best, to political embarrassment and may land his department in court.

Within the next few weeks he must decide whether to allow United Airlines to operate from Heathrow airport in place of Pan Am or whether to try force them to fly from Gatwick — or perhaps Stansted — and run the risk of being blamed for the likely collapse of Pan Am, America's best known airline.

Nearly 400 airlines, trade bodies, local environmental groups and the United States government are marshalling arguments which they hope will persuade the new minister of the justice of their cause. Whatever his decision, it will upset as many people as it pleases.

The cause of Mr Rifkind's dilemma is the planned takeover of Pan Am's Heathrow routes by United Airlines.

Under existing laws no new operator can begin services from Heathrow.

This rule, introduced in the 1970s to help Gatwick develop into an important international airport, has frustrated British and foreign airlines who have been trying to get into Britain's main airport for years, only to be told that they must fly from Gatwick.

United has not until now flown from Heathrow and, on the strict interpretation of the rules, is therefore a newcomer and should not be allowed in.

United has said, however, that if it is not allowed into Heathrow, its agreement falls, Pan Am does not get its cash and the US government is faced with the almost certain collapse of Pan Am. The CAA (formerly the Civil Aviation Authority) has been asked to look again at the rules and to advise Mr Rifkind how they might be relaxed.

United is now close to convincing the American department of transportation



Symbol of dispute: the logo of United Airlines

that its planned takeover of Pan Am's services should be allowed; arguing that United is simply substituting one service for another and that approval must be given, on both sides of the Atlantic, this year if Pan Am is to be saved.

United says that if it has to go to Stansted or Gatwick the deal would not be worth implementing, and that vital trade links between Britain and America necessitate a second US carrier flying from Heathrow to compete with

British Airways and TWA. If those arguments are accepted, however, many other airlines will accuse Mr Rifkind of discrimination and might take him to court.

Mr Rifkind could change the rules and allow into Heathrow all the airlines demanding entry. But that would infuriate British Airways, which says Heathrow's facilities are already inadequate for present users and that terminals would be swamped if more airlines were admitted.

If that happened, British Airways argues, it would then have to bring its Atlantic and Caribbean services back to Heathrow from Gatwick to match the competition, turning Gatwick into an unimportant charter-holiday airport.

Mr Rifkind could extend the rules to cover Heathrow and Gatwick, thereby forcing all newcomers to Stansted, which has failed to attract large long-haul carriers or to prove attractive to sufficient numbers of passengers. If he did that, Pan Am could col-

lapse within months and the US government would almost certainly blame Britain and possibly retaliate by forcing British Airways to fly from Newark instead of Kennedy airport in New York.

One way out of the impasse, suggested by British Midland, and supported by other airlines, is to create additional Heathrow capacity by using both runways all day, allowing more night flights, building another terminal and moving some business flights away. However, environmental groups around the airport have protested so strongly about that idea that Mr Rifkind's predecessor Cecil Parkinson virtually ruled it out.

Friday was the deadline for submissions to be made to the CAA, but so complex are the issues that the British Airports Authority, which is most affected by what is decided, cannot agree a united policy and has asked for more time. With Anglo-US talks on air services bogged down and time running out for Pan Am, a decision is needed soon.

Tunnel fitting out starts in earnest

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Graham Fagg and Philippe Cozette, the two construction workers who brought Britain's physical isolation to an end with a jack-hammer on Saturday basked in the limelight, the task of fitting out the Channel tunnel began in earnest.

Installation of the fixed equipment, including the tunnel's track, signalling, emergency and communications systems, is an enormous operation. The task is the equivalent in construction terms of building 20 cement works, 40 sugar refineries and four nuclear power stations.

In contrast to some early nineteenth century Channel tunnel plans, which included naked gas lights to illuminate the way for horse-drawn coaches and ventilation shafts emerging out of the English Channel, the present project will be built from flame-resistant materials, and will have ventilation stations located on dry land.

Once the service tunnel has been bored in January, the narrow gauge railway used to ferry in machines, men and materials will be ripped up. The two running tunnels should be finished next summer, and work will begin on laying the track to take Eurotunnel's Transmanche Supertrains which will run between Britain and France.

When the tunnel is fitted out, almost 100 miles of continuous welded track, weighing 12,000 tonnes, will have been laid between the two terminal sites at Cheriton and Coquelles. About 300 miles of steel piping, weighing more than 3,000 tonnes, will have been fixed by more than 100,000 brackets to the tunnel's walls.

Fitting out the tunnel has been described as similar to building a railway on a 38-mile viaduct, where the workers have to haul everything with them at the beginning of each shift. Any delay will create a knock-on effect on the teams of workers waiting to start on their particular task.

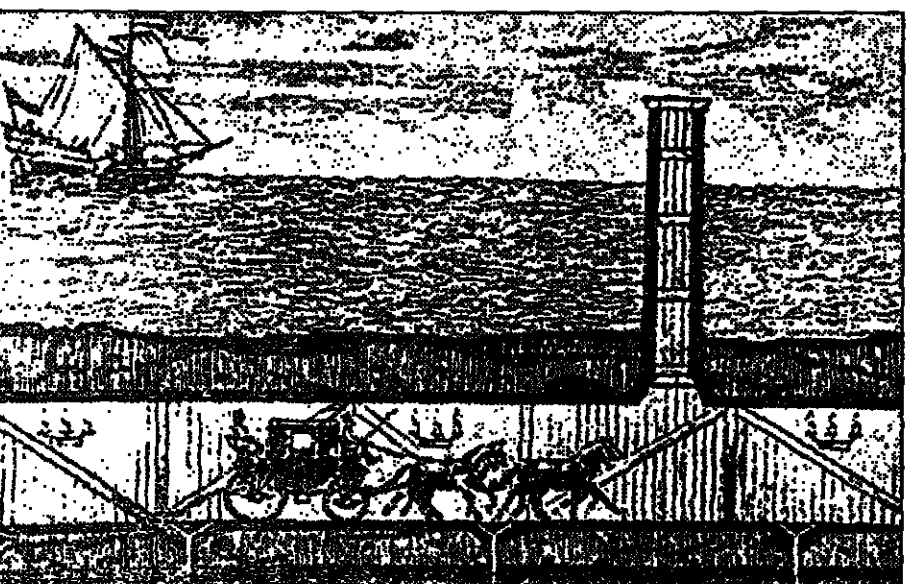
Jacques Thoburnier, who is responsible for overseeing the installation of the tunnel's fixed equipment, knows that no one has ever installed so much equipment in such a confined space under such rigid deadlines before. Any failure to meet those deadlines could result in the contractors facing millions of pounds in penalty fines.

Although the fitting out operation will remain largely hidden from view, work on the two terminal sites is being conducted within full view.

These giant terminals, now about 60 per cent complete, will allow the shuttle trains to exit from the



In at the deep end: Malcolm Rifkind, the new transport secretary (left), and Jacques Melink, French fisheries minister, shake hands after Saturday's breakthrough. Below, how a 19th century engraving envisaged the project



tunnel and loop around so that they arrive at the platforms ready for a new batch of passengers to load up and begin another journey through the tunnel.

Ironically, while Britain and France were celebrating the achievement of their civil engineers, prospective Channel tunnel passengers north of London were told that the new trains British Rail has ordered for the proposed through services from Scotland and the regions might be delayed for a year because of design problems. As a result, passengers would have to change at London.

A 200-year dream

THE tunnel has been a dream for two centuries. 1802: Napoleon Bonaparte approves plans by Albert Mathieu, a French civil engineer, for a Channel tunnel, which was abandoned in 1805 with the collapse of the Peace of Amiens. 1880: Work begins on a new tunnel, abandoned by William Gladstone after the excavation of one and a half miles, because of fears of an invasion. 1974: Construction work begins on a £467 million

scheme which was abandoned by the British government the following year after two miles had been excavated, because of costs. 1980: Norman Fowler, the transport secretary, asks the private sector to come up with fresh proposals for a fixed link. 1984: Mrs Thatcher and M Mitterrand agree in principle to a new tunnel project. 1986: Eurotunnel wins the competition to build a fixed link. Work starts in December 1987.

Wife of IRA victim seriously injured

The wife of a former Ulster Defence Regiment soldier murdered by the IRA at the weekend was last night seriously injured in hospital with gunshot wounds to her head and stomach.

Ammie Gilmore, 48, and her husband Bertie, 48, were shot on the site of their retirement home being built on the outskirts of Kilmac, Co Londonderry. Mr Gilmore, who was recovering from a heart attack, had planned to give up his job as a digger/driver and retire.

The killers escaped in a stolen car but made a u-turn and returned shortly afterwards to fire more shots at Mr Gilmore. Last night police were questioning a number of people about the attack.

Ferry fault

Cross-Channel ferry services were disrupted yesterday after the 25,000-tonne "superferry" Fantasia was forced to return to Dover after developing a fault in its bow visor, which prevented it from unloading vehicles.

Dentist rebuked

A Derbyshire dentist who induced patients to accept private treatment, claiming that similar treatment is not available on the health service, is to be rebuked by the General Dental Council.

Mountain death

Susan Pearson, aged 14, of Nantyllon, Maesteg, was killed when the car she was travelling in crashed and careered down a mountainside at Cwmavon, West Glamorgan.

Jobs to go

The Courtaulds knitwear company is cutting 170 jobs, most of them in Nottinghamshire but some in Irvine, Strathclyde.

Police chase car

Three men were being questioned after police from Avon and Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire chased a speeding car for two hours. The car, which was displaying false number plates, at one time rammed a pursuing patrol car before being stopped in Frome, Wiltshire.

Oil kills birds

Four hundred oil-covered guillemots have been washed up dead on the north Norfolk coast. A further 400 birds covered in oil are being treated at the Marine Life Rescue centre at Bacton, Norfolk. A helicopter is making a North Sea search to trace an oil slick.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw: £100,000, bond number 198K 869402, winner lives in Norwich; £50,000, 16R W 578424 (West Sussex); £25,000, 33DN 184513 (Bournemouth).

When happiness is one long commercial break

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE ad executive's dream came true early yesterday morning when more than 1000 people watched a six-and-a-half hour film consisting entirely of commercials. They were participating in a new craze from France, where people boo and cheer their way through what they staunchly defend as an art form.

At *Night of the Ad Eaters*, where 500 commercials from 42 countries were shown at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London, commercials displaying beautiful bodies and sexual undercurrents were definitely in, while re- tones and those glamourising the business world were shouted down. The 1975 Perrier commercial where a woman carries a bottle which

bursts open was the favourite and the audience blew party horns and whistles and let off balloons. Roars of approval greeted the Levi's ad where a handsome young man in a launderette strips down to his boxer shorts and puts his clothes in a washing machine. In contrast, an American ad for the Mormon church which hailed the virtues of married life was booed, and several unsophisticated Indian ads which featured women gyrating and singing in high pitched squeals also proved unpopular.

When a Mozart piano concerto accompanied one commercial, the audience joined in the tune with their free party horns, and in a string of French ads from the 1960s for a nail varnish called *twenty* the audience

faithfully shouted out the *twenty* jingle. Jean-Marie Boursicot, the show's French producer, who screens a new version to 10,000 Parisians each year, said that *Night of the Ad Eaters* was the only film where there was a dialogue with the audience. He said he was surprised that the London audience had overcome their normal reserve and had reacted so well to the film's first showing in Britain.

Advertisements, he added, were an excellent barometer of changes in society, and in a Swiss one in the 1950s a woman could not be seen buying a fridge and so her husband had to buy it. Nowadays, Mr Boursicot said, that would never be possible. However, he warned of the

danger of approaching the ads as too much of a sociologist and said people should just have fun at his show.

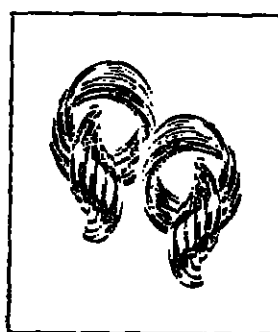
M Boursicot first screened a compilation 10 years ago and now owns more than 350,000 commercials from all over the world. *Night of the Ad Eaters* is screened throughout Europe and North America and curiously M Boursicot has found that audiences invariably sneer at commercials for Pepsi and Coca-Cola, but rush out to buy the drinks during the interval.

Such is the popularity of M Boursicot's collection that this week he faces the final stages of a legal battle in the Paris courts to keep control of his unique archive library of film footage.

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Diamond Stud Earrings set in 9ct Gold. 15 Points Total. £125.00

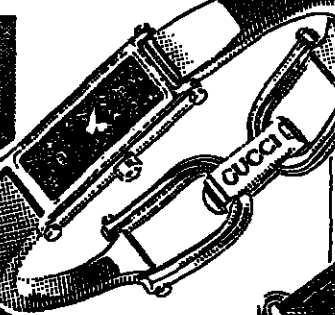
Sapphire and Diamond Pendant set in 9ct Gold. £450.00



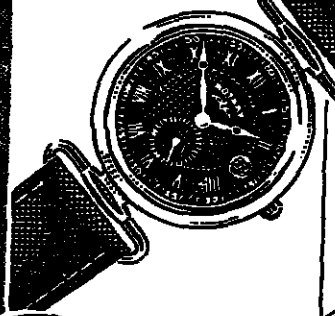
Solitaire Diamond set in 18ct Gold. Half Carat. £750.00

Diamond Cluster set in 18ct Gold. 80 Points Total. £495.00

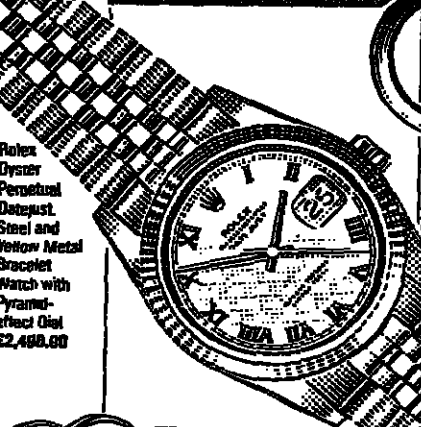
Aquamarine and Diamond Cluster set in 9ct Gold. £175.00



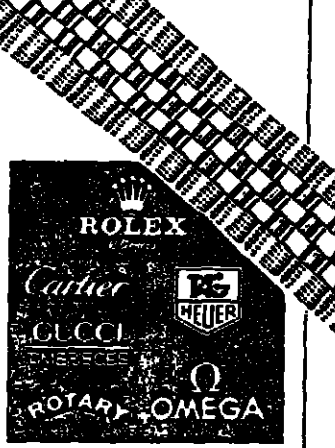
Gucci Ladies Gold Plated "Starry" Bangles Watch. £295.00



Rotary Rose Gold Plated Case on Leather Strap. £109.50



Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust. Steel and Yellow Metal. Bracelet. Watch with Diamond-set Dial. £2,490.00



Gucci Ladies Gold Plated Bracelet Watch with 6 Interchangeable Coloured Bezels. £250.00

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Economy will seal fate of fledgeling democracy in Poland

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN WARSAW

WHEN the Solidarity government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki first went to Moscow a year ago it decided to break with the communist tradition of bibed Kremlin banquets and serve toasts. Instead, the prime minister and his cabinet took the night off and strolled to the Praha restaurant on the Arbat. The doorman refused to let them in.

"But we are the Polish government," exclaimed one of the few ministers who could speak Russian. "Anybody can say they are the Polish government," replied the doorman.

Now nobody can say they are the government of Poland. Mr Mazowiecki has handed his resignation to the outgoing president, Wojciech Jaruzelski. The

president is a lame-duck head of state, in office for only three weeks more and in no position to put together a new team.

The Sejm is a lame-duck parliament awaiting new general elections and unsure even whether to pass the budget. Lech Walesa is still some days from the presidential vote and, despite his cheerful confidence, he may be pushed hard by the challenger, Stanislaw Tyminski. The Polish parliament has neither rejected nor accepted Mr Mazowiecki's resignation. He stays in place but in truth nobody is in charge.

This was not supposed to be the way of democratic change in East Europe. Something is going wrong. Every country is facing problems as the revolution is translated into hard economics.

Jozsef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, came within a

whisker of failure when there were protests over fuel price rises. "Perhaps the oil shock will show us that democracy is not a plaything," remarked Mr Antall.

The Romanian leadership has already abandoned normal procedures of fair play towards the opposition, opting for strong centralised government, which in the Romanian tradition means tramping on critics.

The strain on democratic institutions is intense. Inflation, energy problems, the end of price subsidies, bankruptcies, soaring unemployment (more than a million in Poland), poverty, the constant friction between the lifestyle of the new rich and the man in the street all bear down on the democratic order that has barely been shaped. "No country has ever been through such a radical change before," Leszek

Balcerowicz, the Polish finance minister, said.

Perhaps not, but there are precedents for the kind of dislocation being suffered. The most frighteningly relevant is Weimar Germany: an infant democracy, tolerantly but incompetently run, unable to cope with inflation and nagging economic misery.

Polish society was fundamentally changed last year, not by the overthrow of communism, but by hyper-inflation. Pensioners had their savings wiped out, workers massed in front of Western embassies to emigrate, students dropped out of university in their thousands.

The Mazowiecki government's anti-inflation measures, largely effective and praised by the West, did nothing to mend these fractures. Pensioners were forced to pay high market rents, workers

complained that Solidarity's only function was to patrol shopfloors selecting who should be made redundant.

Mr Mazowiecki said on Monday that his government could have succeeded, if worker unrest had not been stirred up in the run-up to the presidential campaign. It is true that Mr Walesa has in effect become leader of the frustration party. A hardened democracy could probably withstand a certain level of worker turmoil. But as Mr Mazowiecki's champion, Adam Michnik, conceded last week, the government misjudged the social mood.

The first mistake was probably the tolerance of former communists. Some corrupt officials, perhaps from the secret police, should have been put on public trial to demonstrate a clean break with the past. The government's

first moral dilemma was whether to use more than 100 Lancia limousines ordered by the communists.

Mr Mazowiecki made the mistake of listening to the common sense advice that it was too costly to return them to Italy. Now Solidarity ministers are whisked around by chauffeurs and to the common man it seems as if the communist governing machine has reproduced itself.

Similar errors are being committed elsewhere: in Czechoslovakia, where the Civic Forum is in danger of becoming a governing monolith, and most brutally of all in Romania.

Mr Walesa has capitalised on the Mazowiecki government's slow progress towards political pluralism. Mr Tyminski has gained from those who are suspicious of Solidarity, the post-

communist establishment. Both candidates for the presidency base their followings on the victims of market reform, and both have no alternative to market reform. They have no ideology and so must play the nationalist card. "This is my watchword," said Mr Tyminski during a news conference yesterday. "Unity and homeland."

The paradox is that the divisions caused by the much-trumpeted free elections in the post-communist states may sabotage fledgeling democracies. There are no real alternatives in the escape from the command economy: only the market. As Mr Michnik said: "We have to be aware that it is not just Mazowiecki and his camp who have lost, but the specific programme of reforms and a way of constructing a democratic state."

Challenger to Walesa linked with former secret police

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

A FURIOUS and chaotic television duel made public for the first time strange connections between the communist secret police and Stanislaw Tyminski, one of the two contenders for the Polish presidency.

Whispered doubts about the still mysterious past of Mr Tyminski, a businessman, aged 42, who has spent the past 20 years in Canada and Peru, have formed a staple part of the election campaigning of Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman. The two men meet in a final ballot next Sunday. So far, however, it has been a shadow war, with hints by both sides that they possessed compromising material.

On Saturday, in their first joint news conference, some studio light was shone on dark corners. The audience of journalists prodded Mr Tyminski about his lost years, some in Canada setting up a business, some in Peru finding spiritual renewal with Amazon

Indians and running a cable television network. These years are still clouded.

Suddenly Czeslaw Bielecki, a former dissident publisher, stood up and recited the names of four senior secret police officers - two colonels and two captains - who, he said, worked for or advised Mr Tyminski. Mr Tyminski denied nothing.

"These are professional people," he said. "I don't ask people where they come from, only what they can contribute. These are professionals, serious people."

"Professionals in what?" shouted a voice in the audience, but Mr Tyminski affected not to hear.

Mr Walesa, who is the favourite with 58 per cent compared to Mr Tyminski's 30 per cent, was delighted and managed to squeeze references to the KGB or the former Polish secret police, into most of his answers. He argues that Mr Tyminski is fighting a rear-guard action against the Solidarity revolution, on behalf of the old communist apparatus.

"You can see for yourselves that the colonels are on the attack - today they are losing but in half a year they would have won. That's why I wanted to accelerate reform."

The comment was not only a taunt at Mr Tyminski's advisers, but it was also a sop to the followers of the prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who say the presidential election has shattered confidence in Solidarity.

Mr Mazowiecki, who was ousted by Mr Tyminski in the first round and who has offered his government's resignation, yesterday met members of his election committee to lay the basis of a new parliamentary party which will contest the general elections in the spring. Mazowiecki supporters are being told to vote for Mr Tyminski, if only to block Mr Tyminski. Poland's bishops have also put their weight behind Mr Walesa.

Mr Tyminski claims to have visited Poland only once during the martial law years. But interior ministry records show a Polish-Canadian businessman named Stanislaw Tyminski came to Poland eight times during the 1980s each time through Libya. On Saturday Mr Tyminski denied any Libyan connection and denied ever having been there.

"Tyminski is quite a common name you know," he distributed his passports - Canadian, Peruvian and Polish - for inspection but the Polish document was issued too recently to prove anything.

The way he emigrated from Poland in 1969 is also a mystery. First permission to emigrate was denied, but after the intervention of a senior official he was allowed to leave. Mr Tyminski has not elaborated on this. But in electoral terms the most damaging evidence against him is in the weave of contacts with the discredited communist and police machines.

Berlin rejects red-green coalition

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN BERLIN

BERLIN was heading for a grand coalition government last night after the city's first joint elections since 1946 resulted in a marginal victory for the Christian Democrats.

The city followed the national swing to the right but, despite being unified for more than a year, showed a clear political division with the Christian Democratic Union triumphing in the west while the Social Democrats remained predominant in the east. According to the first sample of votes counted, the Christian Democrats, led by the former governing mayor, Eberhard Diepgen, gained 39 per cent of the all-Berlin vote, beating the Social Democrats led by the present incumbent Walter Momper on 31 per cent.

The two parties now look likely to rule together, excluding the CDU's national coalition partner, the liberal Free Democrats, who entered the House of Representatives with 8 per cent of the vote. A coalition of Social Democrats, liberals and the left-wing Alternative List, which is still possible on paper looks unlikely as the liberals have refused to cooperate with the Alternative List. This means that Herr Diepgen is likely to replace Herr Momper as governing mayor of the city.

The result is a blow for the Social Democrats who had hoped that a more casual style of government, coupled with the left-wing eastern vote, would return them to power as the largest party. In the west, the party which had a



People power: a Schwerm woman, 92, voting for the first time in 58 years in the former East German town

tiny lead over the CDU in the last election fell 13 points behind. This was compensated by the clear predominance of the SPD in the east of the city where it led the CDU by 12 per cent.

The communist Party of Democratic Socialism becomes the third largest party with an average of just over 9 per cent of the vote across the city. In the east, the

communists gained nearly a quarter of the vote, a drop from their peak of 30 per cent in the March elections, but maintained their role as a protest vote against unemployment and social inequalities which have followed unification. The extreme right Republican Party, which stood on an anti-immigration platform, failed to clear the five per cent

hurdle necessary to keep its place in the Senate. The vote of the Green-Alternative List was halved to just over five per cent allowing the party to keep its seat.

Herr Diepgen described his victory as a "clear rejection by Berliners of the red-green experiment".

Leading article, page 13

High noon for world trade talks

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN BRUSSELS

AS 25,000 protesting farmers from around the world attempt to bring Brussels to a standstill, trade ministers from 107 nations today begin five days of intensive talks to prevent the collapse of attempts to liberalise world trade.

With predictions of failure and recriminations already echoing around Brussels, the ministers will attempt to rescue four years of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before the deadline in March.

Deadlock over the European Community's refusal to cut agricultural subsidies by more than 30 per cent threatens to sabotage agreement in all 15 sectors under negotiation. Carla Hills, the American trade representative and chief negotiator, said she saw no signs that either the EC or Japan was ready to relax its hard line.

She said there had to be compromises over the next few days if there was any chance of resolving differences on proposals originally launched in Uruguay in 1986 at the start of the current negotiations, when all GATT members promised to reduce farm subsidies, cut tariffs by 30 per cent, ban piracy of patents and copyright, end textile quotas and draw up new rules for freer trade in banking, insurance and other services.

But America and 14 leading agricultural exporters, known as the Cairns group, have threatened to hold up agreement on the entire package unless the EC makes deeper cuts in internal farm support and export subsidies. The community will negotiate as one unit, led by Franz Andriessen, the external trade commissioner. He said agriculture should not be the only consideration. He called the demands of the Cairns group, which wants 75 per cent cuts in subsidies and 90 per cent cuts in export refunds, wildly exaggerated. Japan has also refused to liberalise its agriculture, especially its closed rice market.

Britain has urged a more flexible approach to agriculture. Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, and John Gummer, the agriculture secretary, will be in Brussels throughout the talks.

The developing nations have bitterly criticised the EC stance. Many countries say they will not take action against piracy of intellectual property or cut tariffs unless the EC allows them to compete more fairly in selling their agricultural exports.

Unless agreement is reached by Friday, there are fears that the round will not be concluded before the American congressional mandate to approve the entire package runs out in March.

Casaroli steps down, ending chapter of Vatican diplomacy

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

THE father of the Vatican's much vaunted *ostpolitik*, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, finally made way yesterday for a successor as Vatican secretary of state. He had, under canon law, tendered his resignation last year on reaching the age of 75.

The new secretary of state will be Monsignor Angelo Sodano, aged 63, although the position of Vatican foreign minister, which Cardinal Casaroli combined with his post as secretary of state, is to be given to Monsignor Sodano's deputy, Monsignor Jean-Louis Tauran, aged 47.

Cardinal Casaroli, virtually alone among the signatories of the recent CSCE summit, had signed the initial Helsinki document in 1973. He had been in office as secretary of state for 11 years. He had helped preserve the Catholic church in Eastern Europe throughout the darkest days of the Cold War and he had initiated the first diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Moscow since the Bolshevik revolution, culminating in President Gorbachev's visit to the Vatican last year.

Against these formidable achievements must be counted his at times difficult relationship with the present Pope, Cardinal

Casaroli has often told friends that he considered one of his most important functions to be "to dampen down" the populist style of the pontiff.

His first mission was in 1963 to Budapest where he negotiated on behalf of Pope John XXIII over the case of Cardinal Mindszenty, the Hungarian primate, whom the communists had forced into taking refuge in the American em-

bassy after the 1956 revolution. Eventually, Mindszenty was allowed out to go to Austria and relations between the Vatican and Budapest were restored. Missions to Poland and Czechoslovakia, where the state often threatened to dissolve the Catholic church, followed. Even relations between the Vatican and Belgrade, long strained by the Catholic church's support of the Nazi puppet state in Croatia during the second world war, were restored.

Observers of Vatican affairs believe the combination of Cardinal Casaroli's old school diplomacy and the Pope's undisputed popular appeal proved a formidable combination which played a far from negligible role in the dramatic events of Eastern Europe last year.

Monsignor Sodano is no stranger to the thorny issues which beset the Catholic church in totalitarian states. He was for ten years apostolic nuncio in Chile dealing frequently with General Pinochet. His experience of Latin America will also be useful, as the pope has already made it known that he intends to turn increasingly towards the problems of the poor in Third World countries.



Casaroli: successfully initiated ties with Moscow

Honecker arrest is imminent

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN BERLIN

THE arrest of East Germany's former leader, Erich Honecker, was imminent yesterday after justice authorities in Berlin issued a warrant citing manslaughter charges in connection with the deaths of would-be escapees on the border with the West.

Police travelled to the Soviet military hospital at Beitz, south of Berlin, on Saturday night with orders to take Herr Honecker, aged 78, into custody. But Soviet guards at the camp refused to let the officers enter without permission from the commanding general of the Soviet forces in Germany, and they left empty-handed after it emerged that General Boris Snietkov was away on business.

A spokesman for the Soviet embassy said a decision on when to hand over Herr Honecker would have to be taken "at the highest level in Moscow". He said there was no question that the Soviet Union would prevent Herr Honecker's arrest and the decision was only on the timing and the manner of his transfer to a remand jail in west Berlin. Herr Honecker was given asylum by the Soviet military earlier this year.

Mr Gorbachev said both he and Mr Shevardnadze had tried to use their party leadership posts to change things. Mr Shevardnadze, he said, had expressed the opinion that "everything was rotten" and that things could not go on as they were.

These were brave sentiments for one Politburo member to tell another in the last months of Chernomko's rule. They cast new light on the alliances that brought Mr Gorbachev to power. He has rarely spoken of the months before he became leader or of the considerations that inspired his policy of perestroika. His decision to do so now suggests a deliberate political manoeuvre to advance Mr Shevardnadze's image as a wise and far-sighted politician on both the domestic and the international stage.

As well as his political views, Mr Shevardnadze, a Georgian, has the advantage of being a member of one of the Soviet Union's ethnic minority groups. The proposed new union treaty is presented as an attempt to promote the interests of the republics and minority nationalities.

Gorbachev pins unity hopes on disputed new treaty

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

THE Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, is today expected to discuss the new union treaty, the document which President Gorbachev hopes will keep the Soviet Union together. The draft treaty, published 10 days ago after months of work in committee, is short, covering only half a page of a Soviet newspaper, but it has already aroused passionate objections both from those who want the Soviet Union to stay together and from those who do not.

Omissions have proved as contentious as the draft's content. The previous treaty, drafted by Stalin, specified the right of a Soviet republic to secede from the union, although this was never acknowledged in practice. The present draft stipulates voluntary union membership and reserves the right of members to expel others for violating its terms.

There is, however, no stated right to secede.

Reformists have singled out this omission as one of the central defects of the treaty. Mr Gorbachev may counter criticism by pointing to the new law on secession outlining a set, and complex, procedure for leaving the union, passed after Lithuania unilaterally declared its independence in March; and reformists are expected to press for the treaty to acknowledge its existence. The other chief focus of argument will be the division of power and resources between central Soviet authorities and the republics.

Mr Gorbachev, for the centre, and Boris Yeltsin, leader of the Russian federation, the largest and richest of the 15 republics, have different views on what a future, though still integrated, Soviet Union should look like. Mr

Gorbachev wants a recognisably single state with a single market, single currency, single law enforcement bodies and unified foreign, defence and fiscal policies. He made this clear again at the weekend in a new decree which seeks to prevent individual republics establishing their own armies. Citing the interests of the defence of the Soviet Union as a whole, he implied measures would be taken to tighten up conscription and dismiss local and republic officials who obstruct central policies.

Mr Yeltsin, who has been cautious on the question of a separate army, wants a much looser Soviet Union in which relations between the republics and the centre and between the separate republics are governed by bilateral agreements that proceed from the idea of mutual economic advantage. Aside from those

republics seeking outright independence, the views of most other republic leaders fall somewhere between those of Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin.

The communist governments in Russia's two fellow Slavonic states, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, are expected to lead their republics into signing the new treaty. The Ukraine government, however, is pursuing a dual policy of support for the new union treaty, while concluding bilateral cultural and economic agreements with other Soviet republics. Three such pacts were signed with the pro-independence governments of Estonia, Latvia and Georgia last week. Critics of the Ukraine government claim the only reason for the signing of such bilateral treaties is the Communist party ensuring its survival.

Vitol Fokin, the Ukraine's

prime minister, answers his opponents by claiming his government will be able to inject new life into the disintegrating Soviet Union. His government, like the Russian federation government, wants to postpone the signing of any treaty until after its own constitution is ready. In Byelorussia, the government is strongly in favour of signing the union treaty, but is holding out for more compensation for the damage caused by the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

A possible future rival to a Moscow-led Soviet Union, could be a Baltic/Black Sea union, stretching from Estonia in the north to the Ukraine in the south. Of the three trans-Caucasian republics, Azerbaijan and Armenia have suggested they would sign a modified treaty, but Tengiz Sigua, Georgia's newly appointed prime minister, has stated his

republic will not sign. He said in Kiev last week: "Georgia is not going to sign... It is going to full independence and sovereignty... and that includes an independent army."

Leaders of the three Baltic states have also insisted they are not interested in signing any treaty. Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian prime minister, has said the only interest her government has in the draft document is as evidence of the sort of Soviet Union with which an independent Lithuania will have to deal. Members of the parliaments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, met in Vilnius on Saturday to co-ordinate their response to the draft treaty. A spokesman said afterwards they would not rule out separate economic or political agreements with the Soviet Union, but would refuse to sign a union treaty.

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN NDIAMENA

A French radio report also said that Mr Deby, aged 37, a French-trained professional soldier, had entered Ndjamena yesterday and that his

Before Mr Deby's arrival shots could be heard in the capital, but sources said they were meant as a welcome for Mr Deby's troops.

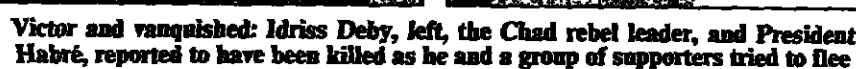
He said French troops were deployed around the town from Saturday evening with more fighters of Mr Deby's advance party.

Obituary, page 14

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

Last Friday police announced that a fit, 39-year-old police sergeant had died of overwork after doing five weeks of special security duty during the enthronement ceremonies for Japan's Emperor Akihito. During those five weeks of 26-hour shifts, Haruo Okada, a black belt in judo, had just two days

in Tokyo, where dangling from a train strap for two hours at the start and at the end of the day is common, stress piles up out of the office as well. And because many mothers now send their children to cram school to ensure a place in the right kindergarten, the pressure is beginning even earlier.



FROM NICK CATER IN PERTH

Today's resolution urges the Antarctic Treaty states to adopt "a comprehensive environmental protection regime for Antarctica embodied in legally binding agreements" and to "incorporate in this agreement a permanent exclu-

● **PERTH:** Shridath Ramphal of Guyana, Commonwealth secretary-general, has been elected president of the IUCN, succeeding Monko Swaminathan.

FROM JOHN BEST
IN OTTAWA

Canada's largest robbery took place in 1984 when Can \$40 million worth of securities were stolen.

The net rates apply to interest payments made before 6th April 1991 on which the basic rate tax liability is discharged by us and cannot be reclaimed by you. The gross rates apply to interest payments made on or after 6th April 1991 when interest will be paid net of basic rate tax at the appropriate rate or gross subject to receipt of registration as required by the Inland Revenue. Non-taxpayers who receive interest net of basic rate tax may be able to reclaim this tax from the Inland Revenue. If the account is closed prior to 6th April 1991 for any reason, interest will be paid at the net rates shown above. Rates may vary.

Israel fears it will pay the price for Bush offer of talks

DIPLOMATS in the Middle East had two views at the weekend on the prospective US-Iraqi talks. One was that President Bush had "blinked" and was looking out by his self-imposed deadline of mid-January. The second view was that Mr Bush was simply giving President Saddam Hussein a last chance to withdraw from Kuwait peacefully.

American diplomats insisted that the second interpretation was the right one. There was no question, they said, of allowing President Saddam to save face by claiming to be the Arab leader who forced the West to link the problem of Kuwait with other Middle Eastern issues, notably Israel and the Palestinian question.

But many Israelis, including some in the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, fear that

the first view has some substance. The anxiety is that, after 122 days of confrontation with Baghdad, the Bush administration, faced with vocal anti-war protesters at home, may be privately willing to let Israel pay the price of an overall Middle East settlement in which a compromise over Kuwait would be combined with a compromise over Palestine.

"It is quite likely that when James Baker, the US Secretary of State, talks to Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, he will say Palestine is not on the agenda," one Israeli official said. "But supposing he indicates that once Iraq has withdrawn from Kuwait the Palestinian question is open for discussion and indeed must be resolved, Iraq might view such an approach in a rather different light from the United States and present it as an Arab triumph."

American officials made it plain

With diplomats divided over American motives for suggesting talks with the Iraqi leader, right-wingers in the Shamir government accuse the US president of "blinking", Richard Owen writes

yesterday that there can be no linkage of the kind President Saddam has been demanding since his "peace offer" of August 12. Dan Quayle, the American vice-president, said there would be no negotiations and no change in US policy, in fact nothing except one last direct appeal to President Saddam.

After a meeting of the Israeli cabinet yesterday, ministers said they had every confidence that Mr Quayle meant what he said. There is, none the less, disquiet because, in making his offer of talks to Baghdad, Mr Bush failed to make it clear from the outset that the Israeli-

Arab conflict was excluded from discussion. Israelis are also disturbed that Mr Bush has taken to referring to "the question of Palestine", which in Israeli eyes implies acceptance of the concept of a Palestinian homeland.

Yesterday, Yuval Neeman, the Israeli science minister, expressed the fears of many on the right by predicting that any deal between Washington and Baghdad would be at Israel's expense. "What I'm afraid of is that the US starting point is the one Mr Quayle is presenting, but that once Mr Baker starts talking to Saddam Hussein, it will

become hard to stop the dynamics of the situation," he said.

Many Israelis assume that if negotiations do begin between America and Iraq the end result will be a comprehensive Middle East peace conference which will leave President Saddam and his military infrastructure intact. "We would have no choice then but to launch a pre-emptive strike at Iraq," one Israeli said yesterday. "Otherwise we will find ourselves facing a nuclear-armed Iraq on our own in two or three years, perhaps even less."

Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the exiled crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, said yesterday that Mr Bush's overture to President Saddam was effectively the Iraqi leader's last chance to avoid all-out war. "If Saddam Hussein insists on continuing his arrogance, his intransigence and his refusal to comply with the international

community, he will have to bear the consequences. We are not ready for any sort of compromise," he said.

Prince Khalid bin Sultan, a leading Saudi general, said Saudi Arabia was prepared to shed the first blood if war became necessary. "We believe that if our friends are here to shed their blood for us, the least we can do is put our forces right in the front line. If there is to be bloodshed, let me assure you that Saudis will take it before their friends," he said.

Diplomats said that although the prospective US-Iraqi dialogue offered the best hope of avoiding war, there was still no common ground between Washington and Baghdad on an agenda. "We remain on alert," one American diplomat said, referring to the 370,000 strong multinational force which is dug in along the front line facing Iraq and Kuwait.

Baker hints Saddam may save face in joint meeting

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, hinted that President Saddam Hussein would do well to use direct negotiations with him about the Gulf confrontation as a way to save face and avoid war. President Bush was buoyed by a United Nations resolution passed last week authorising the use of force against Iraq if it has not withdrawn from Kuwait by January 15, released foreign hostages and restored the former Kuwaiti government to power.

"There's never been any suggestion that force would be used if the United Nations resolutions were fully complied with," Mr Baker said in a television interview with NBC News. "And, in fact, if they were fully complied with, the resolution recently passed by the United Nations would not be self-executing and wouldn't come into force."

He added: "That would give some assurance, it seems to me, that if he complied with the resolutions, his reward for that would not be a military attack by the United States."

Mr Baker sought to satisfy the White House's domestic and international audiences after Mr Bush's unexpected reversal on Friday of his opposition to direct negotiations with President Saddam. Axious to show the American public he is willing to "go the extra mile" to prevent war, Mr Bush said he would invite Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to Washington and offered to send his closest political ally and personal friend to Baghdad.

Iraq has accepted but said it wants to link the discussions on the Gulf conflict to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Bush administration has repeatedly

said there is no link, but has told the Soviet Union that an international peace conference on the Middle East is not out of the question once the Gulf conflict is resolved.

Mr Baker reiterated that there was no connection between the Palestinian issue and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, vowing to tell President Saddam: "We don't think you invaded Kuwait to help the Palestinians" if he tried to bring up the subject in their talks. He gave no date for the possible talks, which are expected to take place between December 15 and January 15.

He said there could be further discussions between Iraq and Kuwait to resolve their disputes once Iraq fulfilled the UN resolutions. He emphasised there would be "no negotiating downward or short of" the resolutions already passed.

Domestically, Mr Bush's offer has gone down well with the public and Congress although some diplomats here are arguing about the risks of Mr Baker going to Baghdad. The debate is split between those who think the United States is better off forging ahead with its own diplomatic efforts to prevent another country from fragmenting the anti-Iraq coalition by jumping in and muddying the waters, and those who oppose negotiations on the grounds they might encourage others to pursue similar paths.

A leading proponent of the second position is Henry Kissinger, the former secretary of state. He said he was "deeply worried" negotiations could provide President Saddam with an opportunity to shift talks towards his personal grievances and undermine America's stand on its original three goals.



United front: Saudi Lieutenant-general Khalid bin Sultan, commander of the joint forces, visiting Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the British 7th Armoured Brigade that has been ready for war for two weeks

Battle-ready troops fight uncertainty

From MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN THE SAUDI DESERT

BRITISH soldiers in the Saudi desert were last week served their millionth meal, just one statistic illustrating the scale of Britain's Operation Granby. But this military effort, small by comparison with

America's Operation Desert Shield, is entering a period of uncertainty.

The 12,000 men of the 7th Armoured Brigade became combat-ready on November 16 after weeks of battle-group training that ended with an exercise involving the full brigade. They were then at peak readiness for an attack on Iraq's forces in Kuwait. The Americans, too, were ready.

But the moment came and went when President Bush announced he was sending reinforcements, at least 150,000 soldiers, an aircraft carrier and 300 combat aircraft. Soon afterwards Britain announced that it was sending another 14,000 men to form a full armoured division.

Since it is not possible for troops to remain for any length of time at the highest state of readiness, they went to a lower state as soon as Washington and Whitehall made their announcements.

Yesterday, however, British forces were put on alert after reports of an Iraqi missile test-firing, a British military spokesman said. "We are aware of missile activity which took place in Iraq in the early hours of the morning. The necessary precautions

were taken by British forces," he said. He gave no other details.

For most soldiers, there is a date to fix on: January 15, the deadline set by the United Nations Security Council last week for President Saddam Hussein to remove his troops from Kuwait. By then the British and American reinforcements will be ready and the new battle plan drawn up.

None of the commanders, British or American, wants war. Every senior American commander in Saudi Arabia saw action in Vietnam and has experienced the horrors of battle at first hand. Yet, as each day passes, the thought of President Saddam getting away with his aggression, or even benefiting from his occupation of Kuwait, makes the military bristle, especially since they know they have the firepower and tactical skills needed to defeat the Iraqis.

Now, with the offer from President Bush to send James Baker, the Secretary of State, to Baghdad for talks, even the January 15 deadline must be in doubt. For President Saddam has been given a chance to catch the anti-Iraq coalition on the wrong foot by making promises which might weaken allied military resolve and tempt America's Arab

allies to pack up and go home. The allied forces are still in defensive positions. The nearest units are 18 miles from the Kuwaiti border. British and many American units, indeed, are in positions suitable only for training, not war. If there is to be an offensive, all will have to move closer to the border.

This is perhaps one reason President Saddam is clearly not yet convinced that the forces aligned against him are prepared to attack.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi authorities are not allowing supplies to reach Britain's besieged diplomats in Kuwait in spite of allowing the American embassy to receive fresh supplies, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

Michael Weston, the British ambassador, and Larry Banks, the consul, have been besieged at the British embassy compound, without food deliveries or fresh water since August 24.

Hostage wife's story, page 18

Protests in London

Freedom fighter: A Kuwaiti woman joining a march to Trafalgar Square yesterday in support of action to free Kuwait. There were several demonstrations, some in favour of a peaceful settlement, in the city. In one, about 20 peace protesters were arrested when they tried to block an entrance to the ministry of defence in Whitehall. Earlier several demonstrators tried to vault over the barrier to reach the building's main entrance. In another protest a group of women opposed to war in the Gulf joined hands around the Cenotaph in Whitehall, chanting "Not in our name".



Shamir vows to quell Arab 'wave of terror'

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

AN ISRAELI bus passenger was stabbed to death in Tel Aviv yesterday and one of the Arab attackers was shot dead by a policeman. Two other Arabs who stabbed passengers on the same bus were wounded and arrested.

A spokesman for Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said the bus attack was part of a "wave of terrorism linked to the Gulf crisis". He said: "What happened is another result of the violent incitement among the Arabs to fundamentalism and extremism. This has been going on since the beginning of the crisis in the Gulf, with Israel facing wave upon wave of terrorist attacks."

Israeli officials said knife attacks on Jews inside Israel and armed incursions by Palestinians on Israel's borders with Egypt, Jordan and

southern Lebanon were the product of "the Islamic fervour whipped up by Saddam Hussein". But Mr Shamir's spokesman said Israel had no doubt it could suppress the violence "as we have done so many times".

The Israeli cabinet yesterday discussed the stabbings and border infiltrations in the wake of the Gulf confrontation and the Temple Mount killings in early October.

In this atmosphere Arab-Jewish relations have deteriorated noticeably. Even Israelis who held relatively moderate views on the Palestinian question a year ago are beginning to believe the only solution is to annex the West Bank and expel its Palestinian population. Until recently such views were the preserve of the far right, but members of Israel's far-right parties are now ministers in the Shamir government. The Israeli left wing has espoused a policy of despair, based on the need to build a wall to

keep Arabs and Jews apart. Both left and right increasingly assume that co-existence is no longer possible.

About 140,000 Arabs live in east Jerusalem, and thousands of Palestinians still work in Israeli factories and shops. But it has become a common sight to see Arab workers being searched thoroughly for weapons at road blocks. Right-wing Israeli settlers on the West Bank have stepped up their attacks on Arabs.

In yesterday's incident in the orthodox Jewish district of Bnei Brak in Tel Aviv, three Palestinians from the West Bank village of Azzun began stabbing Jewish passengers on a bus that had stopped at traffic lights. Witnesses said the bus driver drew his pistol and fired into the air before opening the doors to allow terrified passengers to get off.

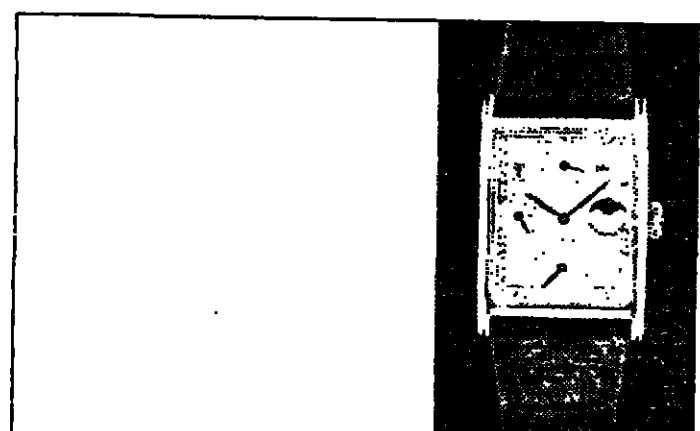
A policeman who happened to be following in a car boarded the bus

with an Uzi sub-machinegun and levelled it at the Arabs. But one of the Palestinians rushed at him and was shot dead. The other two were wounded and arrested. One of the Jewish passengers died of his wounds and several were badly injured.

In recent days Israeli radio news has become a litany of violent incidents. On Saturday, a hand grenade was thrown from a car into a crowd on Tel Aviv's main shopping street. It failed to explode. In east Jerusalem, a Palestinian woman suddenly stabbed two border policemen, wounding them slightly, and was shot dead.

Yesterday, MPs from both left and right called for the Israeli police chief to appear before them to outline urgent steps to deal with the wave of attacks. The cabinet discussed improved border security after a recent incident in which an Egyptian border policeman shot dead four Israelis near the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

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هكذا من الأصل

IF A BRITISH THIRD-FORMER WENT TO GERMANY, HE'D BE IN A DIFFERENT CLASS.

International tests show that, in Mathematics, British teenagers lag behind German teenagers by the equivalent of two academic years.

Does that mean our children are inherently more stupid than those from the continent?

Of course not.

The more reasonable explanation is that there is something wrong with our education system.

A system that, instead of giving pre-school children a flying start, offers nursery education to less than half of 3-5 year olds. (Compare this with 95% in France and Belgium.)

A system which results in only one third of 16 year olds staying on in education. (It's two thirds among our major competitors.)

A system that, according to a survey in 1987, leaves 44% of the population unable to understand a basic fire safety notice.

If we cannot produce people capable of saving themselves in the event of a fire, how can we expect them to survive the heat of European competition?

So what is Britain doing to remedy the situation?

While other European countries invest in training programmes designed to take advantage of the opportunities in 1992, the British Government is cutting £350 million from the training budget.

Despite the fact that inflation is running at 10.5%, the Government plans to increase education budgets by only 3.2%.

And although conservative estimates of the repair bill for school buildings is £4 billion, the Conservatives plan to spend just £0.4 billion.

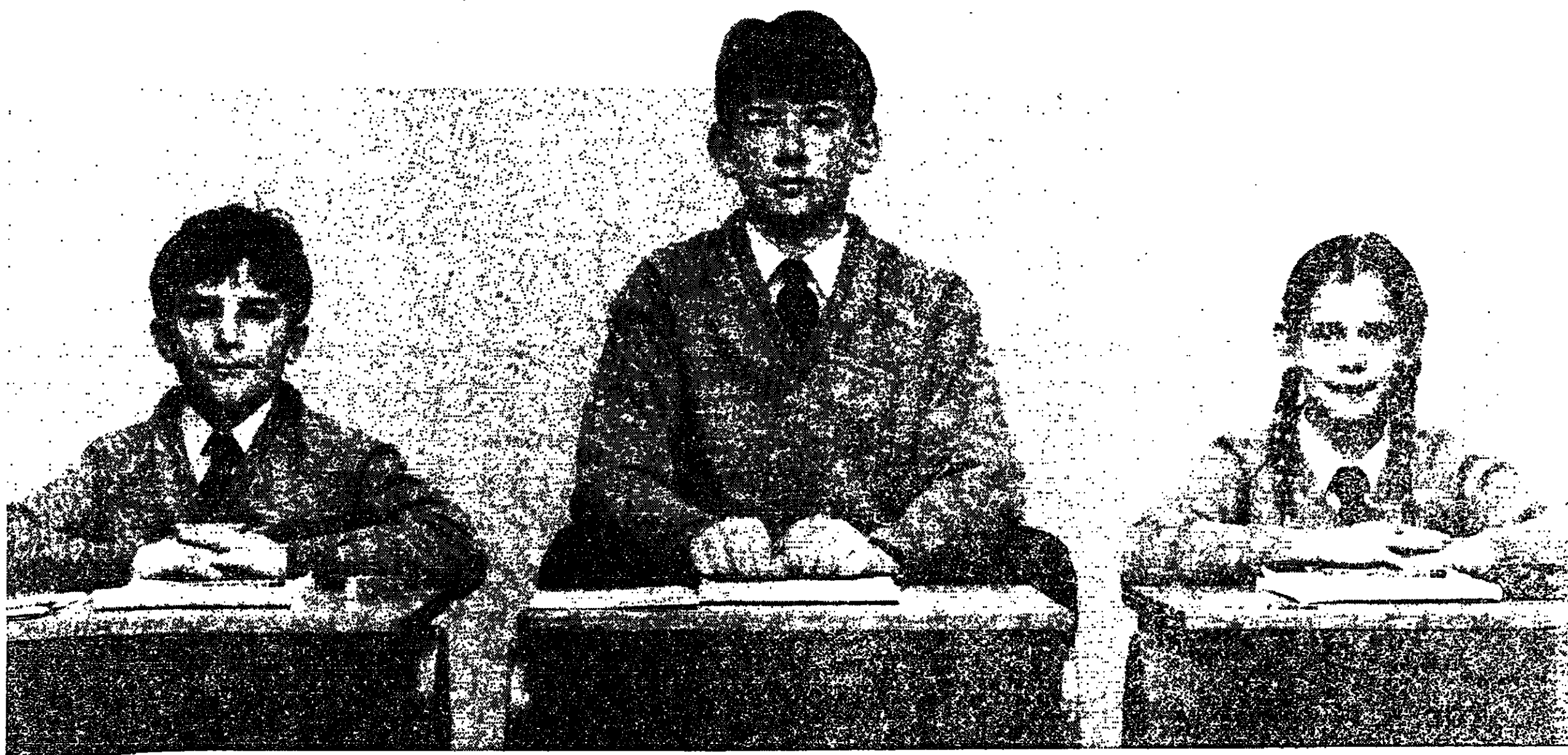
Poor levels of pay mean that teachers are leaving the profession faster than they can be recruited.

Children are learning that they must share books.

And a shortage of science equipment and computers is making it impossible for some schools to follow the National Curriculum.

So it would appear that our children are not the only ones getting their sums wrong.

And until there is a change of policy, we'll continue to be outclassed in Europe.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY LABOUR PARTY

For further information write to 2, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA.



Beware the image trap

Ronald Butt

John Major became prime minister first and foremost because the Conservative party came to the conclusion that Mrs Thatcher had to go and that if Mr Heseltine succeeded her, division within the party would continue. Mr Major is liked and trusted by Tory MPs, who feel they know him better than Mrs Thatcher was known in 1975. As it happens he also offers a much needed combination of Thatcherite economic management with more sensitive social concern. But, unlike her, he has not come in on a clear alternative ideology "ticket". We know that he wants a more open society. But we know little else.

Many questions hang over him. Is he too politically canny? Is he too inclined to say what people seem to want to hear? Does he have strategic as well as tactical skills? Was it significant that immediately after becoming prime minister he first declared in the Commons, and in unexpectedly adamant tones, against a single European currency, then later the same evening delivered a sharply pro-Community speech? Can he really synthesise economic and social needs as Britain stands on the brink of a potentially dangerous recession? All that is certain is, to the extent that his mind appears to be a clean slate, there will be persistent attempts from competing interests to write doctrine on it and to create for him a new, powerful and election-winning image.

It is to his advantage that he does not appear to need doctrine to sustain his political life to the same extent that Mrs Thatcher did. Though in practice she often disregarded it, she temperamentally needed the boost of confidence provided by the constellation of sympathetic individuals and political and economic groups (the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Centre for Policy Studies, for instance) that revolved around her and nourished the creed she lived by. Mr Major will rightly listen to them too, but he will listen probably more to the advice of his civil servants and colleagues, who in turn will be listening more closely to their own officials' exposition of the art of the possible.

As for his public personality, he had hardly entered 10 Downing Street before the image-makers were suggesting how he could be made more forthright and his articulation improved. No doubt he would benefit from speaking a little more slowly and with a more varied pace. But he should beware of the danger that, in politics as in life more generally, reality tends to imitate art. Politicians who are provided with a strongly cultivated "image" may feel an urge to fulfil it. Mrs Thatcher was an example. The tougher she was presented as being, the more she came to believe in and act up to

the image — until she became convinced that will-power made her invulnerable. The image itself ultimately created, in many ways unfairly, the caricature that helped to undermine her.

Mr Major must avoid this danger. Let him remain himself. Let him write his own speeches or make sure they are written exactly as he would think them, avoiding the scripted jokes and devices that ring false. He should be careful lest the theme of "classlessness" becomes manipulated. As his campaign gathered momentum, his so-called humble origins began to assume the appearance of his greatest asset, as though he had succeeded because of them rather than in spite of them. Conversely, Douglas Hurd was presented in the media as handicapped by being a "toff". By the end of the campaign it seemed that if Gladstone could re-present himself for office he would be rejected because he had been to Christ Church, and Churchill because he had been to Harrow — in spite of his mitigating failure to do well there. All this is publicists' hype. Mr Major is not the first to have risen to the top from ordinary beginnings: so did MacDonald, Wilson, Callaghan, Heath and Thatcher — and if it comes to that, Disraeli too; he also seemed an unlikely leader in his day.

British society is and always has been remarkably mobile, though it ought to become more so by the provision of greater opportunity through better education. But when a man or a woman rises high in education or attainment, he or she joins a different class, and we should be glad of it. When someone comes to prefer Jane Austen to a comic strip or Mozart to a banal pop group, they are in a higher class. When a man becomes prime minister, ditto.

To be his own man Mr Major must think his own thoughts, take time for reflection and recreation (which Mrs Thatcher persistently failed to do) and should even read parts of the media for himself. He should not see politics through a daily media digest such as that supplied to Mrs Thatcher by Bernard Ingham. Of course, part of the job of a prime minister's press secretary is to be an inward bridge of public relations, alerting his boss to what is happening outside. But that is no substitute for the prime minister's direct interest in what is being said, as long as it does not rise to Harold Wilson's obsession with the daily headlines. If Mrs Thatcher had read more for herself she would have known much sooner that things were going wrong.

To be his own man, Mr Major must first beware the unwitting traps set by would-be helpers and sympathisers, and must fashion his own image. Above all he should always be candid with the people, not least in explaining the limitations that reality imposes on the best of hopes.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Can I ask you one of those questions to which it is important to give the first answer that comes into your brain? Do not pause, reflect or rationalise. Ready? Here goes.

What has happened to BSE? Be honest and admit it. You don't know. You have even forgotten what BSE is. It's Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, better known as mad cow disease. The nightmare epidemic, you may recall, was about to make a "species jump" from cows to humans, possibly via cats, and turn Britain into a maximum quarantine zone in an agricultural trade war.

Where did that story go? BSE was before Iraq, before the Conservative leadership crisis. Further reflection may bring to mind something about it recently, buried somewhere in the inside pages of a newspaper (you forget which), but one can't quite remember what it said.

Before Iraq, deceased moggies were being dismembered all over Britain by worried vets and pronounced victims of mad cat disease — weren't they? No, I can't remember either.

I gave a friend a boiled egg the other morning. She ate it with gusto. Afterwards she said: "Gosh, whatever happened to salmonella?"

"A year ago," she continued, wiping the last smear of slightly undercooked yolk from her plate with a little swab of toast, "the very thought of an egg made me feel sick. Is that all over then?"

I tried to remember. I think the last news I heard was that the bacteria was still around, but was now believed to have nothing to do with chickens after all, and came from restaurant kitchens... but I'm not sure. I can't work up any interest in the subject. Saddam Hussein intervened.

He appears to have intervened the Vietnamese boat people too. Forgive me if I have just dreamt this, but I seem to remember an almighty fuss in Britain about the forcible repatriation from the teeming refugee camps in Hong Kong of those Vietnamese "economic migrants" who refused to return voluntarily. As I recall, the

papers were full of such people being dragged from their beds; full of leading articles condemning our government for bringing disgrace upon our generation; and reports that Gerald Kaufman was discussing with the Philippine government the possibility of setting up transit camps there.

So what happened? One has a mental picture, almost, of watching the scene on a video recording — Hong Kong militia with batons poised, refugees screaming, and urgent Mr Kaufman in mid-flight to Manila — then someone presses the "pause" button. The screen freezes and we swirl round to another, on which warships are steaming into the Gulf.

Except that in Hong Kong the scene cannot have frozen. Unless the popular misconception of what Bishop Berkeley was trying to say is the truth after all, things do not cease to happen simply because we are not looking at them. They continue, unobserved, unreported.

Or do they? The life cycle of the BSE virus continues, certainly, but the "mad cow panic" ceases — because we have forgotten to panic.

The salmonella bacteria reproduce, seen or unseen, but the salmonella scare depends for its existence upon our remembering to be scared. Like J.M. Barrie's fairies, one of whom died every time a little boy or girl said "I don't believe in fairies", the horrors of the mind depend upon the focused attention of a million lively imaginations, or they die.

Not that salmonella, alongside a thousand other public dangers, does not continue to take its toll. Not that the Ministry of Agriculture has relinquished its efforts to control the spread of BSE. Not certainly not — that thousands in Hong Kong do not face the cruellest of choices, and HMG may have been unduly harsh. But the shock, the drama, the imminence of it all — these are mental constructs, dreams, ... spirits.

And, like the basest fabric of this vision...
Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve...
And leave not a rack behind.

Robin Oakley, political editor, pays a tribute to 'sources close to the prime minister'

Farewell Rasputin, you did us proud

Mr Thatcher's destruction, says a book published today, was a consequence of her reliance on Bernard Ingham. Thinking of those sacked cabinet ministers who attributed their downfall at least in part to Mr Ingham's preparation of the media for their departure, Robert Harris declares: "It was the revenge of the unbribeable."

That thought will hurt the man once called Mrs Thatcher's "rough-hewn Rasputin" more than any accusations of Machiavellian double-dealing.

As Mr Harris's elegant portrait of the one-time Labour counsel candidate, *Gordon*, journalist and press officer to Tony Benn reveals, he displayed in his 11 years at Downing Street the excessive zeal of the convert. He drank deeper than any at the fount of Thatcherism. In his eyes she was infallible. Like her, he is a workaholic, fiercely patriotic and tends to see things in black and white. For him, attack was the only possible form of defence.

Except for the occasional personal interview or chat with her aboard the RAF VC10 during foreign tours, journalists had only largely on those close to Mrs Thatcher to know what she was

thinking. Bernard Ingham was so valuable to them because he instinctively mirrored her attitudes. What some were unsure of by the end was whether he discussed everything with her first or whether Mrs Thatcher, loyal in her turn, was sometimes forced to defend a position or adopt a degree of vehemence he had defined for her.

Not only the "exes" but serving ministers too became openly resentful of what they say was excessive power wielded in a democratic system by the unelected Mr Ingham and by Charles Powell, Mrs Thatcher's slyly efficient and ever-present private secretary for foreign affairs. Both attracted the resentful label of "the real deputy prime minister".

The controversy over Bernard Ingham's role has centred on unattributable comments from "government sources" on various ministers. Mr Harris takes us through it. Francis Pym, still in office, was compared to the wartime *Itma* radio character, Mona Lord. Norman St John-Stevens's sacking was followed by the suggestion that he had been indiscreet about government busi-

ness. John Biffen, after suggesting that the Tories should run a "balanced ticket" at the next election, was flicked aside as "semi-detached".

Mr Ingham says now, a touch disingenuously, that he was actually trying to brush off the questions about Pym and Biffen. To me, part of the trouble — especially in view of Mrs Thatcher's poor performance at man management — was his determination to defend her at all times, at all costs.

But when, for example, he was accused of undermining the careers of the likes of Peter Rees and Patrick Jenkin he was more sinned against than sinning. Colleagues expected their downfall; what was he to do when persistently questioned by lobby journalists? He had his own credibility to protect.

There were occasions when he blundered, notably when he strayed into the minefield of relations with Buckingham Palace and suggested that it would be unwise for the Queen to accept an invitation to the Soviet Union. It was also a mistake for the prime minister's personal spokesman to become, in addition, head of the government information service, however much he sharpened the

service. The lines between government and party sometimes became blurred. But I must pay my personal tribute to his straightness in day-to-day dealing. If you confronted Bernard Ingham with 80 per cent of a story he would not attempt to fog you out of it but would concede the other 20 per cent, putting on it the best gloss he could. We had our clashes but he did not bear grudges.

Nor did he ever lose sight of journalists' deadline requirements, however inconvenient the hour. He also cared deeply about media standards. His lectures on the subject covering such diseases as the Le Carré syndrome (the search for conspiracy rather than cock-up) and Columar Pox (a social contagion affecting diarists and columnists involving a wilful refusal to check facts lest a paragraph be lost to truth) should be compulsory reading for the trade.

Bernard Ingham has suffered from the herd instinct of some journalists. What went down as an Ingham assassination was often less premeditated murder than a weary half-assent to the 15th question enabling those present to write the story they came in determined to write anyway.

But what about the lobby system that allowed him to become so controversial a public figure? To me it is a convenience, not a conspiracy. A daily get-together with a Number 10 spokesman is handy for both sides. As a political journalist I can give readers a better service by talking to a wide range of politicians with the freedom they feel in non-attributable conversation, then cross-checking with other contacts. There cannot be much conspiracy in meetings open to 150 journalists. Those who claim that these things are done better abroad — in America, say — delude themselves.

Those newspapers that primly throw up their hands in horror at Number 10's contacts with the lobby run columns riddled with quotes from unnamed sources elsewhere in politics. And "sources close to the Labour leadership" have never been slow to disparage unattributable the Meachors or Prescotts who may temporarily have fallen foul of the party's powers that be.

Politics is not a game for the faint-hearted. Bernard Ingham was never that. We shall miss him. Robert Harris's *Good and Faithful Servant* is published by Faber and Faber (£14.99).

My wild hyperbole card that was trumped by the bank

The trouble with what I am going to say today is that not even my most sympathetic readers will believe a word of it. Moreover, I am caught in a cleft stick of incredulity: if I plead innocent to one half of the indictment, I shall be convicted on the other half, and vice versa, though I truly am not guilty on either.

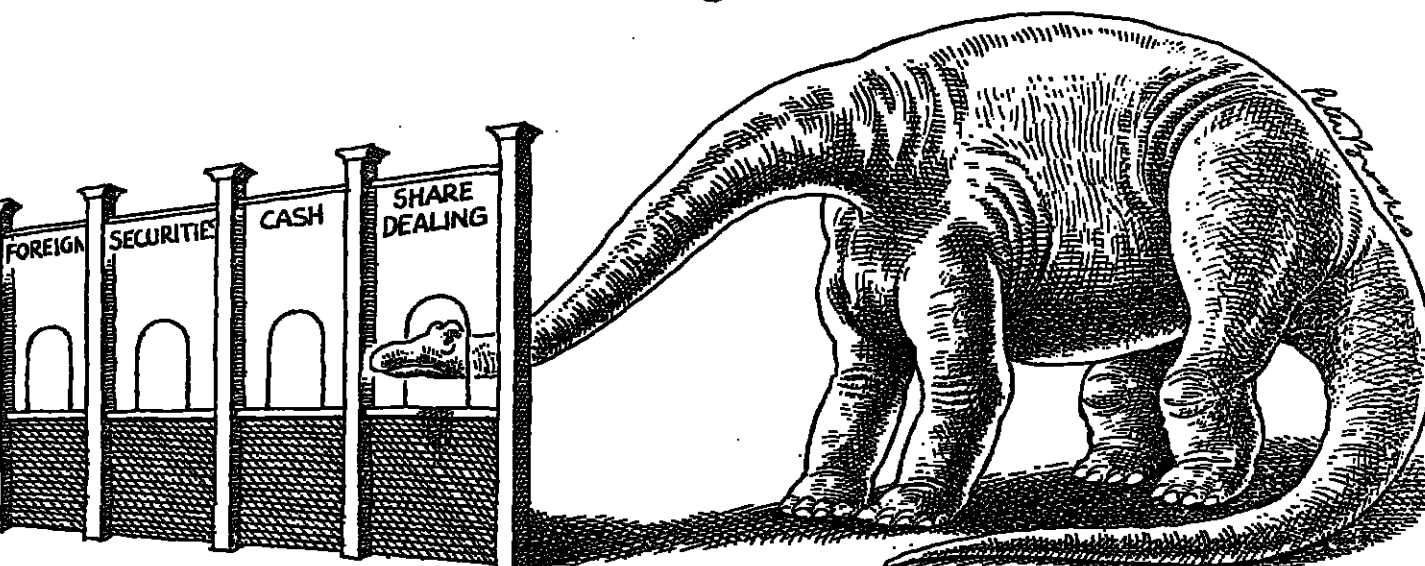
Only a week or two ago, I fired off some 1,500 deftly-chosen words about the inability of our clearing banks to multiply five by three and get the answer right more often than once in a dozen attempts. I added, for good measure, a comment to the effect that if they see a hole in the road they will not so much fall into it as jump, and left the subject temporarily after implying that — the phrase is Katharine Whitehorn's — they do their calculations with a bent pin and an abacus. And then, unfortunately forgetting to make the sign against the Evil Eye, I wrote these fateful words:

...I have little doubt that... the men who actually own, run and manage the banks are at this moment putting the final touches to a tastefully designed brochure, which will go out as a mailshot to all customers, suggesting they should buy a substantial slice of Polly Peck at most advantageous prices.

On my desk as I write there lies a document, sent to me by a reader, I must hurry to impart its contents to you, because I have been weeping tears of blood ever since I received it, and it will soon be indecipherable. It is a tastefully designed brochure (see above) suggesting (see above) that clients should buy a substantial slice of Polly Peck (see above) at most advantageous prices (see above).

The brochure is a monthly newsletter, of which this was the July 1990 issue; it goes out as a mailshot (see above) — well, I hesitate to say a list of people whom the sender has decided, on what evidence I cannot say, are soft in the head, but I do not hesitate very long. It is called *Barclaysbank Prospects*, and proudly announces that it is "Published by Barclaysbank Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Barclays Bank plc". No recourse to selected quotations, however scrupulously chosen, would suffice to bring home to my readers the full glorious quality of the words in which the brochure's most confident predictions were couched, and I therefore propose, with a handsome bow more or less in the direction of the laws of copyright, to print it in full.

If there were to be one success story to emerge from the City over the past decade then surely it must be that of Polly Peck. The credit for the group's rise from a loss making rag trader to its present international status rests with the shrewd business deals executed by the Chairman Asil Nadir. One of Polly Peck's latest ventures has led them to be the only foreign company to acquire a controlling interest in a Japanese group. At first the 51% stake in Sansui, a loss making electronics group, was perceived as a mistake by the City; however on closer inspection analysts realised that Polly Peck would provide Sansui with access to world-wide marketing outlets and factories. Polly Peck dispelled fears further by injecting two of its established electronics companies into Sansui and upping its stake to 70%. In its need of reassurance, 70% of the Del Monte acquisition last year, for not only



Bernard Levin finds investment analysis stranger than fiction in the advice to go a bundle on Polly Peck

has this strengthened the group's overseas business but placed it as one of the world's largest fruit producers. During the past few months analysts have tried to gauge the true value of Polly Peck's assets, their estimates ranging from over £6 to well over £9 per share, when taking even the most conservative figure leave the shares looking decidedly cheap. This asset-price differential has led to assumptions that Polly Peck will float off the Del Monte business and the electronics interests to release some of this hidden value, as the worth of the three independent companies is likely to add up to more than the present group as a whole. Nadir has stated for some time that he feels the share price does not reflect the true value of the group, which gives some credence to the speculation that details of the de-mergers will be announced in the Autumn, in conjunction with the group's interim results. Even if the unbundlings are not proposed this year, Polly Peck continues to look cheap and we have every confidence the group will continue to return an excellent growth record.

Buy up to 485p
I put those last words in bold italics, because Barclays' astrologer did so, presumably to

emphasise his certainty that the advice he was giving was sound. But you see my dilemma. Half of you are convinced that I must have had a copy of the brochure before I wrote my jesting words, so that I was flinging a dead horse for the sake of a witticism, and the other half assuredly think, with even better reason, that I am jesting now, because no such brochure could ever have existed.

On the other hand, I am not now inventing the brochure, which really does exist, and was passed to me by a reader who had received it from his bank. (Surely some recipient should sue Barclays for libel, arguing that sending such material means that those

who receive it must be such fools that they will follow the instructions, and are thus brought into hatred, ridicule and contempt.)

If I were a malicious man, I would go through the Barclays come-on, polishing every one of the magnificent pearls that it contains. I would start where it starts — "If there were to be one success story... over the past decade then surely it must be that of Polly Peck". I would continue with "...the shrewd business deals executed by the Chairman Asil Nadir". Then I would land on "At first the 51% stake... was perceived as a mistake... however on closer inspection..." After that I would have some fun with "if in need of reassurance, sceptics need only look at the success of..." I could not, of course, resist "...analysts have tried to gauge the true value of Polly Peck's assets..." or "Nadir has stated for some time that he feels the share price does not reflect the true value of the group..." And I suppose I would finish with "...Polly Peck continues to look cheap and we have every confidence..."

But as it is, I shall content myself with reflecting on the unhappy lot of the man who, when he is joking, takes care to contrive a joke so absurdly gross that nothing in nature could match it, only to find that it has not only been matched, but far surpassed.

Still in the driving seat

Bernard Ingham may have been swept out of Downing Street to tend his garden in Purley, but until Thursday he will still nominally be boss of Gus O'Donnell, whom John Major is taking from the Treasury to be his chief press officer.

For until a successor is formally appointed, Ingham remains head of the government information service, to which he was appointed last year. "In that position I do outrank Gus," he says. For the next four days, Ingham will be in and out of Downing Street briefing his successor. A Downing Street spokeswoman said yesterday: "There are a number of technical details that the two men have to work out between them."

As Robin Oakley writes above, Ingham blundered by occupying the dual roles of personal spokesman for the prime minister and head of the ostensibly impartial Whitehall information service. The current issue of *PR Week* says he "has set a precedent by politicising the post, which yields huge influence throughout Whitehall". Ingham's official biographer, Robert Harris, believes the two posts should never have been held by the same person. "It has been very damaging and I hope it is not repeated."

Ingham, characteristically, put on a bold front yesterday. "I expected criticism and am well used to it," he said. He conceded that he knew who would succeed him in his government information job but added, again characteristically: "I'm not telling you."

Westminster wags have come up with a theory for the Tories' new lead in the opinion polls. Because John Major entered Parliament only in 1979 and has sat exclusively on the government benches, he does not have the experience to be entrusted with the important job of leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition.

A fair old clip

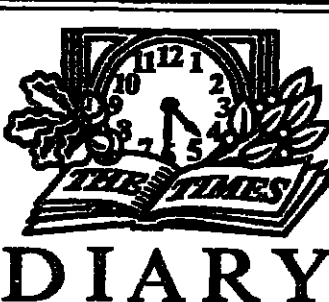
John Major's classlessness does not extend to his choice of barber. Although his greying mane has been likened to a skullcap, it is the work of Trumpers, hairdressers to royalty and the aristocracy for over a century. Trumpers' basic short back and sides costs £11, but a spokesman says that Major, who started going there when he first became an MP,

Smart move, John... the Rastafarian vote could clinch it.



usually asks for something more elaborate. "It's not our traditional cut. There is a bit of style about it. Mr Major takes a keen interest in his appearance."

Although he does not lavish as much attention on his hair as his predecessor, Major is obviously



happy with the results. He has agreed to be guest of honour at the Mayfair shop later this month for the launch of a booklet entitled *The Art of Shaving*.

Rock of ages

After discovering a number of fossilised sea creatures thought to be 380 million years old, palaeontologists in Perth, Western Australia, have had to wait a further 20 years for the Natural History Museum in London to extract them from the four tons of rock in which they were embedded, examine and catalogue them.

The find was unearthed by a joint Anglo-Australian expedition in the appropriately named Fossil Downs area. So time-consuming is the work that only 15 prepared specimens have been returned to Dr John Bannister, director of the Museum of Western Australia.

One problem, says Dr Robin Cocks, head of palaeontology at the Natural History Museum, is that they are so fragile they can be carried only by hand, by someone in whom total trust may be reposed. "We have extracted fossils that are so exquisitely preserved you can even move the jaw up and down."

Dr Bannister is due in London soon and will take three more specimens back with him. After so many aeons, the others can presumably wait a little longer.

More means less

A 32-year-old woman driver with a maximum no-claims bonus last month asked Commercial Union for a quotation to cover herself and husband to drive a 1980 Austin Allegro. After being told £122, she decided that her husband was unlikely ever to drive the car and attached to her cheque a letter saying there would not after all be a second named driver. Ah, said Commercial Union, that will increase the premium by £32. The woman then asked for her husband to be reinstated, and the premium went down again.

Can anyone explain the logic of this? The CU employee who handled the application could not. The only suggestion the Diary can offer is that Commercial Union has modelled itself on the bizarre system which determines the structure of American air fares. Astute travellers wishing to fly from Los Angeles to Gallup, New Mexico, for example, have discovered that it is cheaper to buy a ticket to Lubbock, Texas, the plane's final destination, and quietly disappear at the Gallup stopover.

Meet and proper

Now that English and French construction workers have shaken hands in the Channel tunnel, plans are going ahead for a symbolic meeting at the midway point of politicians from the two countries.

President Mitterrand will almost certainly be there. But who should represent Britain?

For an event of such international significance, it should be John Major. But it was Mrs Thatcher who pushed so hard for the tunnel and with whose name it will always be associated. The talk at Westminster, then, is that the new prime minister might take a back seat and ask her to be Britain's chief representative.

Transmanche Link is understood to be keen for Mrs Thatcher to attend because it believes that without her, the project would never have got under the ground. And for such an event, the French would be delighted to have her.

Supporting cast

Prominent theatre people led by Sir Michael Hordern and Penelope Keith will meet in London today for an unusual ceremony: the official opening of a suite of offices. To raise badly needed money, the Actors Benevolent Fund has moved to Covent Garden after converting its Grade II listed headquarters in Adam Street, which it will rent out for £170,000 a year.

"With the recession, our case load of old and ill actors seems to have doubled," says Rosemary Stevens, secretary of the Fund. "Anyone qualifies for help who has spoken words professionally on the stage in English."

Penelope Keith, who succeeded the late Lord Olivier as president of the Fund last year, says: "Sadly, actors are still often categorised as rogues and vagabonds. They are very proud people and rarely ask for anything. That is why the Fund is so important."



This will be the last election at which such

protect British interests, more than Mrs Thatcher with her ill-concealed distaste for Herr Kohl was able to do. She supposed that it was enough to win the respect of Germany's central banker, Karl Otto Pöhl, a man whom the Chancellor could simply overrule on international issues. Helmut Kohl, like Germany, has been underestimated. He now presides the heart of Europe. With the Soviet Union in chaos and the United States experiencing yet more confusion over its world role, a united Germany under a strong Chancellor is a hugely important player in world politics — once again.

WANT.

The demand for a lottery clearly exists. So

Mr Major need not worry about private operators making profit from lotteries; the pools companies and bookmakers do so already. They will be the main losers when charitable lotteries are permitted. The market will ensure that money goes to the right place. It is less galling to lose a pound in a good cause than in the cause of Littlewood's or Ladbroke's private profit.

ours,
Y. ZAMYATIN,
 Embassy of the Union of Soviet
 Socialist Republics,
 3 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8.
 November 30.

ours etc.,
MICHAEL MARSHALL,
Chairman, British Group,
Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Palace of Westminster, SW1.
November 29,

It seems to us to be increasingly inequitable, as well as complex, for private occupational pension schemes to have to adapt to conflicting between man and woman

breaks the unemployed could be given temporary work. During an employee's year off with guaranteed return to work they might achieve their heart's desire; otherwise the disappointment could sicken their soul. Or they would

Cancelling debts

From Mr C. A. V. Guy

Sir, I note with great interest that

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN GUY,
Binfield Hall,
Newbold College,
Binfield,
Bracknell, Berkshire.

Local consensus

From Mr Richard Waddington
Sir, Susan Watson (November 27)
wells for a patient and part of the

Yours faithfully,
C. P. F. BAILLIE,
West End Farm, Locking,
Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

with practice one will improve the ability to grasp it all and it will be well worth the effort as much more information is now given. It is nice having the new and old styles mixed together.

ITV have been magnificent in

Yours sincerely,
JEAN DENTON,
3 St George's Road, SE1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – (071) 782 5046.

[illegible]



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 1: The Queen arrived at Her Majesty's Palace, St James's Palace, at 11.30 and was received by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, Mr. Geoffrey Howe, and the Lord Chamberlain, Mr. John Glynne. The Queen was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince Harry, and the Duke of York. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were accompanied by the Duke of York, Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince Harry, and the Duke of York. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were accompanied by the Duke of York, Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince Harry, and the Duke of York.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a reception given by the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor at St James's Palace at 6.30. The Queen will be accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince Harry, and the Duke of York. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were accompanied by the Duke of York, Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince Harry, and the Duke of York.

Birthdays today

The Marquess of Ailsa, 65; Mr. Walter Anderson, 80; Mr. Trevor Bailey, 70; Mr. Ralph Bennett, 67; Mr. Ralph Bennett, 67; Mr. Ralph Bennett, 67.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A.B. Dick and Miss J. McKenzie-Smith
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of their only son, Mr. D.A.B. Dick, to Miss J. McKenzie-Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. McKenzie-Smith, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr R.J.E. Evans and Miss C.J. Webb
The engagement is announced between Mr. R.J.E. Evans, of London, and Miss C.J. Webb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Webb, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr J.D.N. Horner and Miss E.A.R. Grant
The engagement is announced between Mr. J.D.N. Horner, of London, and Miss E.A.R. Grant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Horner, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr J. March and Miss J.C. Woodford
The engagement is announced between Mr. J. March, of London, and Miss J.C. Woodford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N.F. March, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr S.R. Moore and Miss H.J.W. Sanders
The engagement is announced between Mr. S.R. Moore, of London, and Miss H.J.W. Sanders, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Moore, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Lord Gerald Fitzalan Howard and Miss E. Roberts
The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Andrew's, North Yorkshire, of Lord Gerald Fitzalan Howard, younger son of the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, to Miss Emma Roberts, youngest daughter of the late Dr. Desmond Roberts, of London. The marriage was officiated by the Rev. Gordon Wheeler, Father Thomas Maudsley and Father Michael Mahady.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr. Richard Baylis, brother-in-law, was attended by Lord Maitland, Walter Froot, Miles de Rooper, Benjamin Eaton, Mariella Rycart and Candida Balfour. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey was best man.

A reception was held at Carlton Towers, Goolie, Humberstone, and the honeymoon will be spent in Barbados.

Lord Patrick Conyngham and Miss C.M.T.G. Black
The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, of Lord Patrick Conyngham, youngest son of Marquess Conyngham, of Myrtle Hill House, Ramsey, Isle of Man, and of Eileen Conyngham, Mount Charles, of Glamorgan House, Dunsmuir, Co. Meath, to Miss Charlotte Black, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Black, of Edinboro, Co. Wick. The Rev. Lawrence Luscombe officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Oriel Carew, Violet Guinness, John Walter Kerr, Fynn Vergos and Lady Henrietta Conyngham. The Earl of Mount Charles was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, 1719-1789; Robert Stephen Hawker, poet, 1803-1882; Frederick Leighton, Baron Leighton, president of the Royal Academy 1878-96, Scarborough, 1830; Joseph Conrad, novelist, 1857-1924.

DEATHS: Francis Xavier, 80; Mr. Trevor Bailey, 70; Mr. Ralph Bennett, 67; Mr. Ralph Bennett, 67; Mr. Ralph Bennett, 67.

Mr D.J. Parry and Miss R.F. Hutton
The engagement is announced between Mr. D.J. Parry, of London, and Miss R.F. Hutton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Hutton, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr D.L. Robinson and Miss C.A.P. Beadle
The engagement is announced between Mr. D.L. Robinson, of London, and Miss C.A.P. Beadle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Robinson, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr R.J.O. Taylor and Miss C.E. Day
The engagement is announced between Mr. R.J.O. Taylor, of London, and Miss C.E. Day, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Taylor, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr N.A. Trend and Miss S.J. Butler
The engagement is announced between Mr. N.A. Trend, of London, and Miss S.J. Butler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Trend, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr B.S. Woodson and Miss M.A.A. Campbell
The engagement is announced between Mr. B.S. Woodson, of London, and Miss M.A.A. Campbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Woodson, of London. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 24, 1990.

Mr G.W.C. Herbert and Miss A.L.E. Mansel Lewis
The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Mary's, Kidwelly, Dyfed, after the marriage of Mr. G.W.C. Herbert, of London, to Miss A.L.E. Mansel Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.W.C. Herbert, of London. The marriage was officiated by the Rev. G.T. Davies.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lord Maitland, Walter Froot, Miles de Rooper, Benjamin Eaton, Mariella Rycart and Candida Balfour. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey was best man.

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OBITUARIES

TERTIUS MYBURGH

Albert Tertius Myburgh, former editor of the Sunday Times, Johannesburg, died in Johannesburg yesterday, aged 55. He was born in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, on December 26, 1934.

Tertius Myburgh was the most influential South African journalist of his generation; not only as the successful editor of his country's largest newspaper, but as a builder of bridges in a deeply divided society. He, more than any other editor or political commentator, coaxed and cajoled white opinion to the point where it began to abandon its fears and its prejudices and accept the challenge of change.

His platform was the Johannesburg Sunday Times, a unique and often bizarre blend of tabloid journalism and serious political analysis, which he termed "quali-pop". It was a mixture which secured a readership of four million - and the serious attention of local politicians, international statesmen and some of the best political analysts from South Africa and abroad, all of whom jostled for space in the paper's opinion pages. By turning these pages into a public forum in which men and women of widely divergent views first debated the ideas for the new South Africa, he helped to create a climate in which it could come about. This role was one for which, by temperament, personality and history, he was well qualified. An Afrikaner, deeply proud of roots reaching back 300 years into South Africa's history, he performed a rare feat: he rose quickly through the ranks of the English language press to

become at 35, the youngest editor in South Africa.

At a time when the political and cultural gulf between English and Afrikaans speaking South Africans was as wide as the divisions between black and white, he contrived to be at home in the utterly English atmosphere of Johannesburg's Rand Club, as in the Dutch Reformed Church - of which he was an elder. As a result, he was not immune from criticism from both sides for appearing to ride two horses. The success of his newspaper, when its sister, the Rand Daily Mail, was in commercial difficulties that led to its closure, made many English-speaking liberals wonder "which side" Myburgh was on. On the other hand, many Afrikaners were sceptical of one of their own who appeared to have sold out to the liberal English press.

Myburgh's problem with both groups was that he was equally at ease discussing the future of South Africa with fellow countrymen of all colours and persuasions, and no less at ease guiding foreign diplomats, politicians and journalists through the complexities of his country's politics. He defied categorisation. Armed with an unquenchable optimism and an unflinching faith in the ultimate good sense of South Africa's people, he never fell prey to the pessimism which clouded the judgment of other political commentators. He steadfastly refused to damn people rather than their beliefs.

Myburgh was not content simply to proclaim his views from his editor's chair. Fluent, witty, an engaging

personality with an original mind, he became a sought-after speaker and debater. As the longest serving member of the South African Conference of Editors, he succeeded in restraining the worst instincts of a government bent on censorship, with its inefficient rather than draconian attempts at control, rather than resign to defeat, he argued and battled, restraining the worst excesses to keep the flame of press freedom alive - in a continent where, as he remarked to foreign visitors, it survived almost alone in South Africa.

As a leading member of the United States-South African Leader Exchange Programme, he used the organisation to promote not only better understanding between South Africa and the United States, but between South Africans of all races, creating in the early 1970s the first forum at which black leaders and Afrikaner Nationalists could speak freely to each other.

His effervescent spirit, unforced charm and wide range of interests - he was an avid, if not always successful, trout fisherman and dedicated climber - won the affection of a circle of friends which crossed every social and ethnic barrier.

The son of a veterinarian, Myburgh was educated at Dale College in the Eastern Cape and at the University of Cape Town. He served his journalistic apprenticeship on *The Friend* in Bloemfontein, before coming to London where he worked on the *Farmer's Weekly* (and earned extra money as an enthusiastic jazz pianist)

before joining the South African Argus Newspapers' London bureau. Returning to South Africa as political correspondent of the Johannesburg Star, he won international acclaim for his eye-witness coverage in *The New York Times* and *Time* magazine of the murder in parliament of the South African prime minister and architect of apartheid Dr H.F. Verwoerd.

A Nieman Fellowship took him to Harvard university from where he returned to become assistant editor of the *Natal Daily News*, before his appointment as editor of the *Pretoria News*, a small English language paper in the capital of Afrikaanderdom, which he soon built up into one of the most respected and authoritative voices in South Africa.

But it was his appointment in 1975 as editor of the *Sunday Times* which brought him to national prominence and gave him the platform which he used to influence opinion and events. His nomination by President F.W. de Klerk in September this year as ambassador-designate to Washington, an appointment which was greeted with acclaim by all sectors of South African opinion, was a vindication of his belief in the new South Africa which he had helped to create.

Within three days of his nomination, he learned that he had been struck down by cancer, whose swift and savage progress he bore with the courage and good humour that had characterised his life.

Myburgh is survived by his wife, Helmine, a son, Phillip, and two daughters, Danielle and Jacqueline.

VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT



Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, politician, diplomat and sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, died on Saturday in Bombay, aged 90. She was born on August 18, 1900.

MRS Pandit was the first Asian woman to represent her country as an ambassador. She filled many diplomatic and political posts with great distinction.

The daughter of Pandit Motilal Nehru, she was born at Allahabad in the then United Provinces. While her brother, Jawaharlal, went to Harrow and then to Cambridge, his young sister - Swarni, as she was then called - was educated in the seclusion of their father's luxurious home, Anand Bhawan (the House of Joy) at Allahabad, and later for a short period at school in Switzerland. In 1921, Swarni married Ranjit Sitaram Pandit, a Sanskrit scholar and historian. The day fixed for the ceremony, May 10, caused considerable anxiety to the British authorities; it was the anniversary of the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny, and a rising was feared. Mrs Pandit's brother was threatened with prosecution, but the marriage, in spite of its inauspicious beginning, was a very happy one and three daughters were born. Ranjit Pandit died in 1944.

Mrs Pandit was involved, with her father and brother, in the struggle for India's freedom and was imprisoned three times by the British for a

total of thirty-six months. She gained her first experience of local government as a member of the Allahabad municipal board, of whose education committee she was chairman. On the establishment of provincial autonomy in 1937, Mrs Pandit became the first Indian woman to attain ministerial office, holding the portfolios of local government and health in the Congress government of the United Provinces. In 1939, when all Congress provincial governments resigned in protest at India's involvement in the European war against Germany and Italy, Mrs Pandit again became active in the struggle against the British and, in 1944, visited the United States to put the Congress case before the American people. Her charm and wit established a firm foundation for her future popularity in that country.

In 1946, when elections were again permitted in India, she once more assumed responsibility for local government and health in the United Provinces government. In the same year, she headed the Indian delegation to the general assembly of the United Nations in New York; she discharged the same function in Paris in 1948. When India gained independence from Britain in 1947, her brother, the new prime minister, chose her as the first Indian ambassador to Moscow. There, her hopes of influencing Stalin in the direction of Gandhian

non-violence were unsuccessful and he refused even to grant her an audience. In 1949 she was transferred to Washington where she consolidated her already influential position with the American people and their leaders. During the very difficult period of the Korean war, Mrs Pandit expressed India's fears and concern with considerable effect.

In 1951 Mrs Pandit returned to India and was elected to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) in the general election; in the next year she led India's first

goodwill mission to Peking; and in the spring of 1953 she was nominated by the Soviet Union as secretary-general of the United Nations. The selection, however, fell to the late Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden. Nevertheless, in the following autumn she was chosen to be president of the eighth United Nations assembly, the first woman to fill that office.

Mrs Pandit came to London in November 1954 as the third high commissioner for independent India and as ambassador to Eire. An exacting chief, she encouraged her ju-

nior officials to accept responsibility and to trust their own judgment within the framework of general policy. During her term of duty in London, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made a state visit to India and Mrs Pandit accompanied them on much of the journey and was responsible for a great deal of the planning which made the visit such a success.

In August 1961 Mrs Pandit returned to her flat in Bombay and it seemed that she had retired from active political life. But none of her friends believed that so dynamic a personality would be allowed to rest for long. In November 1962 she became governor of the state of Maharashtra, once part of the old Bombay Presidency of British India. After her brother's death in 1964 she took over his constituency, Phulpur, with a large majority. However, she resigned the seat in July 1968 saying she felt "out of tune" in parliament. Although she said she had not left the Congress party she retired from public life as Mrs Indira Gandhi, her niece, came into the limelight, and her last years were clouded by increasing disagreements with Mrs Gandhi.

Mrs Pandit perhaps suffered from being the sister of such a dominating person as Nehru, but she had genuine talents which she used unreservedly for her country.

She is survived by her two daughters.

PIERRE DUX

Pierre Dux, actor, died on Saturday in Paris, aged 82. He was born there on October 21, 1908.

PIERRE Dux was starring in one of the biggest hits of the Paris season, a French production of an Israeli Horowitz play, just a few weeks before his death, when his health rapidly deteriorated after a bout of flu. He had been voted Best Actor by the French theatrical profession in April, and recently awarded the state's highest theatrical accolade - the Grand Prix du Theatre.

Dux was the son of actor Alexandre Vargas and actress Emilienne Dux, who at the time of his birth were married but not to each other. It was no surprise that he should follow them into the theatre and obtain a first prize at the Conservatoire national d'art dramatique - an institution to which he returned in 1953 as a professor.

In 1929 he entered the Comedie-Francaise, where he quickly became a mainstay of the company; seldom centre stage but in supporting roles.

During the German occupation he was promoted to head of the Francaise, a task which released for the first time his passion for the theatre and his desire to see it flourish, artistically and financially. His faultless manners concealed a strong will particularly when he believed in what he was doing. This trait, while taking the company successfully through difficult years, led him to resign in 1945.

Dux was a loyal supporter of de Gaulle. An admiration returned by the general who always called him "maitre". Dux's own voice was not unlike de Gaulle's and he was often asked to read the general's speeches on radio and television.

In 1970 he returned to the Francaise as administrator general. The next decade was not without friction, but artistically it saw the highest closed doors of France's first national theatre open to directors such as Giorgio Strehler and Terry Hands. One memorable production followed another. He cast the then 11-year-old Isabelle Adjani as Agnes in *L'Ecole des Femmes* and helped to launch her as a megastar.

Dux himself was never a star in today's terms. He did not want to be; he wanted to be an integral part of the French theatre. When he let the Francaise in 1979 it was to embark on a non-stop acting career in the commercial and subsidised theatre. Three productions were never swamped in hype or massive budgets but were ones of impeccable quality that opened quietly and slowly gathered momentum, until their success at the box office pushed them to the forefront.

Dux had four great loves: the theatre, his wife Francis, his daughter the actress Fanny Delbric, and his granddaughter Elodie for whom he wrote his memoirs, published in 1984 which he characteristically entitled *Vive le Theatre*. A sentiment to which he devoted his life.

Water-mill reveals Roman grasp of mass production

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

STUDY of a Roman water-mill complex in southern France shows it to have been organised on an industrial scale, producing up to nine tonnes of flour a day. The existence of such a mass-production facility calls into question the widely-accepted view that because slave labour was cheap and plentiful, the Roman empire never developed efficient sources of power.

The mill, at Barbegal near Arles, probably dates to the fourth century AD according to Professor Trevor Hodge of Carleton University, Ottawa. "It is a well-preserved example of something that, according to the textbooks, never existed at all - an ancient Roman power-driven, mass-production, assembly-line factory," he says in *Scientific American*.

Barbegal was a large rectangular construction some 42 by 30 metres (137 by 98 ft) built down the slope of a hill, containing two parallel rows of mill houses separated by a service stair. Two other stairs, ran down the outside of the complex, allowing mules and

donkeys to bring in the grain and take away sacks of flour. The 16 water wheels were arranged in two descending lines of eight, so that the water cascading from the topmost wheel would spill down to drive the next one.

The water supply itself came from an aqueduct originally built to supply the city of Arles, in Roman times the important port of Arles on the Rhone. As the aqueduct became clogged by carbonate encrustation, a new one was built to supply the city, but the reduced supply of water remaining was still sufficient to drive the mill. The complex was thus built, Professor Hodge believes, in response to the opportunity afforded by the water supply suddenly made available close to a big flour-consuming community.

Although the walls of the mill stand only 1.5 metres high, and the wooden wheels as well as the superstructure have long vanished, Professor Hodge has been able to reconstruct the diameters of the wheels at 2.1 metres (6.8 ft), and to show that the drive shaft would have been cou-

pled by wooden gears to a vertical axle driving the basalt millstones, a metre across, on the floor above.

Dr Robert Sellin of Bristol University has calculated the output of the mill. In *History of Technology* (vol. 8, 1983, 91-109) he took a hypothetical aqueduct flow of 1 metre per second and a wheel rotating 10 times a minute at 65 per cent efficiency. Dr Sellin calculated that this could generate about 2 kilowatts (about the equivalent of a 250cc motorcycle engine). This would turn the wheels about 30 times a minute, and the entire Barbegal complex would yield about nine metric tons a day.

Even if the mill only operated at 50 per cent efficiency because of repairs, late grain shipments, and low water levels, the output would still have been sufficient "to feed a population of 12,500 based on a consumption unit of 350 grams a day". This corresponds quite closely to estimates of the population of Arles in the fourth century.

Source: *Scientific American* 263 No. 5: 106-111.

University news

Kent
Professor Anthony Beezer, of London University, has been appointed professor of physical chemistry, from October.

Loughborough
The University attracted research funds of over £5.7 million during the sixth month period ending July 31 1990.

SERC (Science and Engineering Research Council) has awarded Dr M. E. H. Jones, of London University, a grant of £10,000 for research into the use of laser light in the study of the structure of materials.

Dr J. W. Patrick, of the University of London, has been awarded a grant of £10,000 for research into the use of laser light in the study of the structure of materials.

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Service dinners

Cambrai Dinner: Arabian Peninsula
Officers of the Royal Tank Regiment serving in the Arabian Peninsula held a Cambrai Dinner in Dubai on November 29. Guests were Lieutenant Colonel Mike Cullinan, 14th/20th King's Hussars, and the officers' wives. Colonel Peter Bentley and Major Tim Turner presided.

St Albans School CCF
Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Pryke was the principal guest at a dinner given by St Albans School Combined Cadet Force at the school, on Monday, November 26, to mark his retirement as Contingent Commander. His health was proposed by Rear-Admiral Bryan Straker. The GOC Eastern District was represented by Brigadier Tony Kerr and Brigadier Michael Heath presided. Amongst those present were Major-General Ian Harrison, Major-General Peter Shapland, Rear-Admiral Geoffrey Marsh and Group Captain Tony Gross, representing AOC Air Cadets.

105 (Scottish) AD Regiment RA
Officers of 105 (Scottish) Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers) and members of the City of Edinburgh Artillery Officers' Association attended a St Andrew's night dinner held on Saturday at the regiment's headquarters. Brigadier M.T. Tennant was the guest of honour and Lieutenant-Colonel A.G. Dordard, commanding officer, presided.

Dinner

Association of Old Brightonians
Mr S.C. Pappas, President of the Association of Old Brightonians, presided at the annual dinner held on Saturday at Brighton College. Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson was the guest of honour and Mr J.D. Leach, headmaster, also spoke.

Luncheon
HM Government The Hon Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Mrs Hurd held a farewell luncheon at Chevening House, Kent, yesterday for the Ambassador of Japan and Mme Chiba.

Regent's College
A three week Christmas exhibition of studio glass by Adam Aaronson opened yesterday, at the Kauppi Gallery, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London.

Nature notes

REDWINGS that have come down from Iceland or Scandinavia are feeding greedily on hawthorn berries. Through the thick twigs one can still clearly see the creamy throat and eyestripe, and the blood-red streak on the flank, that distinguish them from song-thrushes. At this time of the year, the commonest call is like the clucking alarm note of blackbirds, but rather more plaintive.

Mistle-thrushes have begun to sing again high in the treetops: the song is made up of bold, ringing phrases, that always end abruptly as though the bird is suddenly bewildered. Male and female bullfinches feeding on ash seeds answer each other with a deep, piping call that carries far on still, grey mornings. Small birch trees growing



near the ground still have plenty of yellow leaves on them. There are also orange and even green leaves on low willows, and on some twigs silvery catkins are already beginning to break out of the light brown buds. On wild roses the hips are bright orange with black tips; conspicuous now are the dry, hairy galls known as robin's pincushion, from which tiny gall-wasps emerged last summer.

Teachers in Manchester have pioneered a service that could cut the need for residential care for Britain's children in trouble. William Hunter reports

Kicking sense into the system

Tim Walker knew that he had to do something about his school. He was so successful that he closed it. Mr Walker was head of a residential school for disturbed children who were considered by the courts and their families as incapable of staying in their own homes or being taught in mainstream schools.

His success at the residential home, run by the city of Manchester in Macclesfield, Cheshire, has led to a new teaching system which is likely to be copied throughout the country. At a time when morale in education is low, there is a steady stream of enquiries from teachers who want to join the Manchester service, which helps children in the care of the social services.

In most local authorities, relations between education and social services are strained, but Mr Walker's team employs 33 teachers from the education department who work alongside the social services department.

Tim Walker, head of the new service, says that there is, too often, hostility between the two departments. "It is often the case that the two departments share children in common, but little else," he says. The results, he believes, are often appalling for both the children and the teachers trying to help them.

Children in care are normally taught by small, isolated groups of teachers, sometimes confused

about their roles, demoralised by lack of support and usually working under two departments that deeply distrust each other. The teaching profession generally recognises that the system falls short of the children's needs.

In many cases, small social services teaching units are expected to meet a mishmash of needs by educating victims of physical, sexual or emotional

'Those young people did not turn out to be quite the marauding psychopaths their assessments had suggested'

abuse alongside those involved in criminal or other violent behaviour. Mr Walker says these policies isolate young people from their families and communities and, in effect, transfer the problem elsewhere. "It rarely solves the problem for the young person," he says.

This was the situation facing Mr Walker when he was headteacher at the home in Macclesfield. The home looked after young people who had been assessed as being so severely disturbed that they required residential care 24 hours a year, with education on site.

Mr Walker and the staff began a process of placing these "hard-line" children, who kicked against the system, back into normal education. Such was their success that it was possible to shut down the school. Almost overnight, teachers changed their role from teaching extremely difficult children in a separate unit to supporting the same children in mainstream schools.

"Those young people," Mr Walker says, "did not turn out to be quite the marauding psychopaths their assessments had suggested. With just one exception, all survived back in mainstream school with support from our staff. And, contrary to the dire warnings of other professionals, I do not recall any complaints from schools."

"If all social work and education policies are designed to isolate the most difficult children away from their families, communities and school, into specialist and remote provision, then young people will continue to behave and respond negatively. Such systems only solve the problem for those who wish to get the children off their hands."

"We had our fair share of disruption. However, as soon as we had a clear policy that focused on integration and not isolation, the disruption and other problems began to fall away. The impact was dramatic."

Following the Macclesfield experience, the Manchester authori-



Tim Walker with his team of specialist teachers: "Education is a vital component in the complex problems of young people admitted to care"

ties began to question why children ended up in residential care, and found that it was often because parents at the end of their tether, and without sufficient support, simply signed a piece of paper committing young people to the care of the local authority. The result was a policy of keeping as many children as possible in the community, with schools playing a leading role.

The new service was formed last January when, for the first time, teachers working within social services were able to identify with

a single organisation and a clearly defined policy. It already appears that the need for residential care has been reduced.

Mr Walker says: "Many local authorities simply fail to recognise that education is a vital component in the complex problems of young people admitted to care. They choose instead to see it as a separate issue, which can be thought about later."

Teachers in the new service spend most of their working hours

with children and families who require their expert help, counselling pupils, supporting families and intervening in crises. In any given month, an average of 27 per cent of young people in care will require assistance from the teaching-service staff because of sudden difficulties.

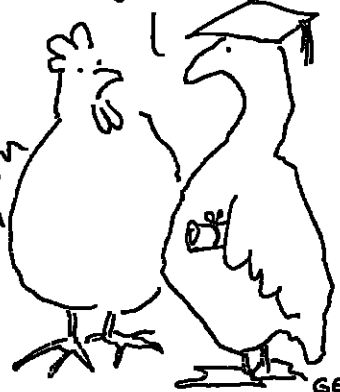
"To many young people and their families the education world is beneficial only in theory," Mr Walker says. "In reality, it often constitutes failure, authority, remoteness, domestic pressure, legal problems, regulations, delays and

incomprehensible bureaucracy. These compound their difficulties and traumas and, in many cases, actually pre-empt them."

"The new teaching service in Manchester provides a source of education and advice, support and advocacy. It exists on a practical and day-to-day basis to represent the interests of young people and their families."

"In so doing, it provides the support required, often at its most critical time, to facilitate progress in a young person's broader development."

What's good for the goose is good for our gender



When women's studies first tentatively appeared as options on British university courses in 1974, they were considered a huge joke, a sop to the fashionable feminism of the time, and certainly not a real academic discipline.

Today, 12 universities offer undergraduate and full-time postgraduate courses. Jaina Hanmer, the American co-ordinator of the women's studies MA degree at Bradford university, was instrumental in setting up Britain's first course.

"It all began," Ms Hanmer says, "when the British Sociological Association (BSA) held its annual conference at Aberdeen in 1974. The theme was sexual divisions in society. It drew a lot of academic women, far more than usual. This meeting led to the setting-

How women mastered their destiny

For a decade women's studies were a joke at university. Now students can take an MA

up of a strong network of women inside the BSA. The outcome was that some sociology departments started to devise optional courses on sex and gender.

At that time, women's studies were a minor, take-it-or-leave-it part of a sociology degree. There were no books or course material available, but interest grew so quickly that publishers began commissioning books and more universities started to offer courses.

Rapid development followed, Ms Hanmer says. "It became possible for women to begin to teach the subject. Then, gradually, course material was written, and

some universities began offering specialised MA courses." The courses were pioneered by the University of Kent in 1980, followed by Bradford, Warwick, York, Loughborough and Essex. "Now, elements of women's studies are creeping into politics and literature departments. In many universities, sex and gender studies have become part of the core course, and are no longer just options," Ms Hanmer says. So far, though, no men have taken a full-

time MA degree in the subject. Are women's studies really relevant to the Nineties? "Women's studies must remain a subject in their own right if you see gender as something which, like racism, affects everything we do," Ms Hanmer says. "Everything about human life is gendered, and unless we have specific courses to remind people of this, there is a danger that this understanding will disappear."

Catherine Orr Deas, aged 22,

came to Bradford university after taking a first degree in English and American studies at the University of East Anglia.

"I found my undergraduate course completely male-dominated. There was supposed to be a women's studies element, but it was sheer tokenism," she says.

"After university, I took a year off to work for anti-pornography campaigns, and I want to work in the women's movement as a career. I'm finding this course excellent, as it is giving me a thorough grounding in feminist history, theory and practice."

Charlotte Ashworth, aged 23, a full-time student, says: "I'm using

this course basically to learn how to do research into women's issues, and have found it excellent - everything I wanted."

Sally Ahir, a mature student with twin sons, aged five, adds: "I very much wanted to do a course which was specifically concerned with women's issues, and this was the only suitable one on offer."

Sally, who is a part-time student combining her studies with working in a unit for pregnant schoolgirls, says: "This course is giving me the opportunity to develop feminist perspectives, and keep my consciousness raised."

"I now feel that every woman ought to have the opportunity to do a course of this kind. There are still not many areas where women can come together and study."

LIZ HODGKINSON

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POSTS

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Further particulars are available from the Assistant Director of Administration, Wye College, (University of London), Wye, Nr. Ashford, Kent TN25 5AH. Telephone 0233 812401 Ext.228, Fax 0233 813320.

Letters of application accompanied by a cv and the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference may be made should be addressed to the Principal, Professor J.D. Prescott at the above address to arrive before January 2nd, 1991.

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DAVID TYTLER

A prospectus and forms of application can be obtained from the Registrar, Dollar Academy, Dollar, FK14 7DU (Telephone 0259 42511; Fax 0259 42867) and must be lodged not later than Friday, 18th January, 1991.

For those whose names are already on the entrance lists, no further

Do-it-yourself hostage release

When Dorothy Goodwin's husband was held by Iraqi forces she took the direct approach to getting him back.

Jane Bidder reports

Dorothy Goodwin was one of the ten women who, a month ago, defied Foreign Office advice and flew to the Gulf, determined to approach President Saddam Hussein and secure their husbands' release.

When the Iraqis invaded, she and her husband, Peter, had left their home in Kuwait City, where they had lived for eight years, and gone into hiding. They broke into absent friends' flats to get food, but were down to their last few tins when they heard that the Iraqis were coming for them the next day. Mr Goodwin, aged 58, a pilot with Kuwait Airways, persuaded his 55-year-old wife to follow the advice given in BBC World Service broadcasts, and take one of the last women-and-children convoys out of Kuwait. The Goodwins made their way to Basra, inside Iraq, where Mr Goodwin was taken captive and his wife undertook the 15-hour journey, by bus, to Baghdad. She flew back to Britain two days later, while her husband was taken to a military installation.

After an emotional reunion with her children, Debbie, aged 30, and Guy, aged 28, she went back to her cottage, in Buckinghamshire. "I rang the Foreign Office every second day for news, but there wasn't any," she says. "I put Peter's name on everyone's list: Edward Heath's, Nadeem Sahim's (who was trying to get his father out), anyone."

Three weeks passed with no results. Then the Foreign Office rang to say a letter from her husband had got through. The letter expressed relief that she had got out (Mr Goodwin had heard this on the radio). But two subsequent letters indicated he was feeling increasingly depressed and isolated.

By now, Mrs Goodwin felt she should "forget everyone else and do my own thing". She



Back in action: Dorothy Goodwin wants to aid other hostages, while her husband Peter plans his return to the Middle East

contacted Carol Cox, the wife of another hostage, whom she had seen interviewed on television, and the two women decided to visit the Iraqi embassy in London, obtain visas, and go back to see what was happening. I was scared about returning, but I couldn't just sit there."

At the Iraqi embassy, Mrs Goodwin asked if she could hand in a letter to President Saddam when she reached Baghdad. "I was shown in to the Iraqi ambassador, who suggested we might take a group of other women out with us." Wasn't she worried about being used as a propaganda tool? "Not really. If he was using us, so were we using him. We wanted our husbands."

After a month Mrs Goodwin had collected a group of nine other women - others were unable to join them, either out of fear, or because they could not leave their children - plus Iraqi assurances of a safe trip.

Once in Baghdad, they were housed, free, in the same hotel to which soon-to-be released detainees were being taken. "We kept asking to see our husbands," Mrs Goodwin also requested an interview with the Federation of Iraqi Women.

On the third day, she re-

turned from breakfast to find her husband standing outside her room: "He looked like the Wild Man of Borneo. He had a beard and his clothes in a blue plastic bag, plus his precious bed roll."

At this stage, nobody knew if the men actually stood any chance of release.

"My husband annoyed me by lining up his belongings by the hotel door in case he was given short notice to go. Nor, for the same reason, would he get out of his tracksuit. The first night, he had a dreadful nightmare."

The first breakthrough came that week, when representatives of the Federation of Iraqi Women suddenly arrived to take the British wives to a meeting at their headquarters. That meeting was closely followed by an audience with the Speaker of the Iraqi House of Assembly. He treated the group "like royalty", but still there were no promises.

Meanwhile, the federation had set up a sight-seeing tour - for the women only. They went on trips to Babylon and other marvels, but "we began panicking, especially when one of our party overheard our minder telling a

guard he didn't know how to explain to us that our husbands were being taken back to their camps again."

The following day, soldiers arrived at the hotel to take the first group of husbands away. Somehow, Mrs Goodwin managed to persuade their minder to hold them off until President Saddam had heard their case. They were released for four more days.

The day before the deadline the news came that President Saddam would see them. This time, even the husbands began to feel hopeful and Mr Goodwin changed from his tracksuit into a clean shirt and trousers.

Officials arrived in a curtained bus to take the men and women to the palace. Handbags were forbidden, while the men had to have empty pockets. "We were scared but hopeful," Mrs Goodwin says.

"After waiting for half an hour, we were shepherded back on to the bus. We thought all was lost until it pulled up at an identical palace, next door, where I was asked to line up the couples and introduce them to the president. He was extremely courteous. Then he suddenly said that we could all take our husbands home. I told him about those wives who

had been unable to come over. I wasn't sure if he said yes or no to their release, and I didn't give him a list. You are never allowed to give anything to him."

The mood on the bus back to the hotel was sombre, as they thought of those still in captivity. Mrs Goodwin still does not know how to talk to those women who did not come on the trip, and believes there is now only a minimal chance of any further mission succeeding.

Back in Amersham, Mr Goodwin is getting ready to go back to work - this time, operating out of Cairo. Mrs Goodwin says she knew her husband was on the mend when he started demanding "heart attack" fried breakfasts.

For her part, Mrs Goodwin has started a fund to advise other wives of hostages. "We promised to help the detainees, some of whom we'd known before as macho men, yet who broke down in tears, begging us to do something." She also hopes to persuade super-markets to send out food parcels to captives, which the Federation of Iraqi Women has promised to distribute.

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Mentors who walk a tightrope of trust

How do men in caring professions keep relationships with the people they help out of 'the forbidden zone'?

Last week the Church of England consistory court found a Sussex vicar guilty of adultery with two parishioners, one of whom, it transpired, had come to him in grief after a child's death. It is a timeless situation: a counsellor, apparently fatherly or brotherly man falling victim to the temptations of trust.

Most caring professions have techniques for stopping such feelings in their tracks; but all have their lapses. Earlier this year considerable interest was stirred by a book, *Sex in the Forbidden Zone*, in which the American psychiatrist Dr Peter Rutter claimed that exploitative affairs between patients and their male mentors - doctors, lawyers, priests and employers - had become, in our sexually free society, an unacknowledged, damaging and disgraceful epidemic.

But what constitutes a sexual abuse of the "mentor" role? It is reasonably clear when it concerns doctors, teachers or clergymen. Common sense draws the line, even when both parties are unattached: a young, single GP who finds himself falling in love with a patient does well to shunt her off to the senior partner and leave a decent interval before asking her out for a drink. Clergymen, lawyers and teachers are equally aware that declarations of passion form no part of their brief, particularly when they are acting as mentor to a dependent, often confused and distressed - girl or woman. The risks of such abuse of professional confidence, and the damage it causes, were spelled out clearly enough by Dr Rutter: as women in such situations are often searching, above all, for someone who values them apart from their sex, an unexpected pass is more than an embarrassment. He calls it "the death of hope".

But psychotherapists and analysts walk the most difficult tightrope of all. After reading Dr Rutter's comments earlier this year, one young woman in the grip of a nightmarish relationship was moved to attend a lecture he was giving, tell her story, and attempt to act against her analyst. Jane (not her real name) was trying to deal with a childhood trauma which she cannot, even now, bear to discuss casually. "I chose to work with a male analyst so that I could learn to trust a man." According to Jane, six months into analysis he began to ask her fantasies; shortly afterwards "he told me that he had had a dream and that he loved me. He said: 'Who knows? Perhaps we'll get married some day.'"

Jane was, she says, horrified. "I was seeing him three times a week and had grown very attached to him. A part of me did love him. It's normal, it's called

transference. But what he said to me was devastating. It was a repetition of what had happened to me in my childhood. He talked about making love to me. To say I was confused is an understatement. I didn't know what to do."

She tried to break off therapy, and they met on neutral territory. "I was all caught up, not sure of what I felt. Then something in me resisted the whole situation and I wouldn't see him again. When I heard about Dr Rutter I realised what a really deep abuse of power it had been. This man knew my past, he knew all my vulnerabilities, but he only seemed concerned with his own emotional mess."

The point is that they never became lovers: this was no cheap sexual imbrolio. But it was an emotional mugging, in which the pain and outrage expressed by Jane are palpable. There was not a lot to be done: she had her complaint heard in camera - at her request - by the General Medical Council, which, she admits, took it with great seriousness. But it appears to have accepted the therapist's account of events, as he was found not guilty of serious professional misconduct. Whatever happened, Jane has for one reason or another been badly hurt just when she was looking for help.

Such problems, to which Dr Rutter's grounds is to draw attention, undoubtedly arise partly out of Jungian therapeutic techniques. Dr Robin Skynner, of the Group-Analytic Practice in London, has experienced what he calls "tightrope" situations several times. "It is sometimes necessary for the analyst to confront feelings of attraction within himself, and with great caution to share them with the patient; this overcomes a block in their conversation. But you never do it if you think the patient might take you seriously, or has feelings that could be confused. Frankly, it's much safer to do in the context of group therapy, even though it makes you look a fool."

He adds, however, that the phenomenon of "counter-transference", in which the therapist becomes genuinely obsessed with the patient, requires a swift reference to his supervisors and probably an end to the therapy. Jane's experience should give any troubled woman pause before she embarks on the inward journey with an unknown analyst. "Make sure he's under supervision," she says. "And stop if you're uncomfortable."

She is now with a woman analyst, having, for the moment, shelved her ambition to find a trusting, non-sexual relationship with a man.

LIBBY PURVES

EDUCATIONAL

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE SOUTH AFRICA

Applicants are invited until 18 January 1991 from persons with appropriate qualifications and experience to fill the following post:

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The University invites applications for the post of Professor and Head in the Department of Anthropology. Applicants should have an interest in the development of Southern African Anthropology and be committed to promoting critical theoretical perspectives and ethnographic research which will facilitate understanding of transformation in Southern Africa. The new incumbent would be expected to participate in promoting and strengthening innovative teaching approaches and research in the department.

FRINGE BENEFITS: Pension scheme, medical aid scheme, group life assurance, leave privileges, service bonus, relocation expenses and housing subsidy (subject to certain conditions).

Application forms, salary scales and further particulars are obtainable from: The Personnel Division, University of Durban-Westville, Private Bag X54081 Durban, South Africa, 4003. Telephone (031) 629-2222/3 Fax (031) 629 3678.

Chair in Modern European History

UEA NORWICH

Applications are invited for a Chair in Modern European History in the School of Modern Languages and European History from candidates with an interest in the history of Europe from 1789 to the present. Candidates with teaching and research interests in twentieth century European history will be particularly welcome.

The chair, which arises from the appointment of Professor R.J. Evans to a chair in the University of London, is available from October 1991. Salary will be by negotiation within the professorial salary range (minimum £27,013 per annum).

Applications (five copies), giving full particulars of age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be lodged with the Registrar and Secretary, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, (telephone 0603 592208) from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 12 January 1991. In naming three referees you are particularly requested to give only the names of those who can immediately be approached. No forms of application are issued.

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Further details are available from the Academic Registrar, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB. Tel: 071 253 4399 ext 3035. Confidential fax: 071 490 5360. Please quote reference number BD/T. Closing date for applications 17 January 1991.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Thomas Warton Professorship of English Literature

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Thomas Warton Professorship of English Literature, with effect from 1 October 1992 or such later date as may be arranged. The stipend of the professorship is currently £31,088.

It is hoped to make an appointment in the field of Victorian or Modern Literature or both.

Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 28 January 1991 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Professorship of the History of Latin America

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Professorship of the History of Latin America with effect from 1 October 1991 or such later date as may be arranged. The stipend of the professorship is currently £31,088.

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The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Oriel Professorship of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture with effect from 1 October 1991 or such later date as may be arranged. The stipend of the professorship is currently £31,088.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

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In association with St. Hugh's and Lincoln Colleges Applications are invited for a University Lectureship in Psychology, to be filled from 1 October 1991. The lecturer is expected to carry out research and contribute to teaching in the general area of Language and Communication, but ability to teach in additional areas, such as Artificial Intelligence or related cognitive fields, would be an advantage.

The University stipend will be on the scale £12,086 - £33,819. The University Lectureship may be held in conjunction with a fellowship at St. Hugh's College and a Lectureship at Lincoln College. Further particulars about the Lectureship and the college associations may be obtained from Professor L. Weiskrantz, F.R.S., Department of Experimental Psychology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3UD to whom applications (8 copies) including a curriculum vitae and list of publications, together with the names and three referees, should be sent to arrive by 14 January 1991.

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Chairman Department of English

Nominations and applications are invited for the position of Chairman of the Department of English at Boston University. The position, available September, 1991, will be a senior tenured appointment. A distinguished record in scholarship and teaching is required.

The University grants the M.A. in Creative Writing and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English and American Literature.

Nominations or letters of inquiry, including current vitae, should be sent to: Professor Burton L. Cooper, Chairman, Search Committee, Department of English, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. Application deadline is January 15, 1991.

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Applicants should be graduates and ideally have research experience in an appropriate discipline. Industrial experience would be a distinct advantage. Above all they should be good communicators, flexible and innovative thinkers with the ability to acquire a detailed understanding across a wide range of subjects.

The appointment will be for 2 years and there may be an opportunity to study for an MBA. Dr R. Snakes, Director of Industrial Liaison, can be contacted for informal discussion. (Tel 0330-22181, ext 4864). Further particulars from, and applications in writing with CV (5 copies or, if posted overseas, one copy in a format suitable for photocopying) and the names and addresses of three referees to: Personnel Office, The University, Dundee, DD1 4HN. Please quote reference E21/AS/90/7. Closing date 4 January 1991.

FELLOWSHIPS

1991 BEIT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Applications are invited by the Trustees, for up to six Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research. The aim of the Fellowships is to promote the advancement of research in medicine and the allied sciences in their relation to medicine. One or two of the Fellowships will be awarded to a candidate whose research proposals are judged to reach the appropriate standard and to bring benefit to the inhabitants of Zimbabwe, Malawi or Zambia, but separate application is not required. The salary will be in the range of a Lecturer or Clinical Lecturer, according to age, previous experience and qualifications of the applicant (maximum starting salary in the range £12,086 - £16,756 plus London Allowance of £1,767 where appropriate). There will be the usual university superannuation contributions and benefits. Some research expenses may be granted on application. The usual tenure of a Fellowship is three years.

Eligibility - In conformity with the conditions under which the Fellowships were first established, every Fellow shall be a man or woman of any nationality whatsoever who at the date of election shall have taken a degree in any faculty in any University approved by the Trustees, in the U.K. or in any country which is or has been since 1910 a Dominion, Protectorate or Mandated Territory of the Crown.

Candidates must submit written evidence that they will be given accommodation in the department where they propose to work which must be in proposal must be agreed with and confirmed in writing by the Head of the Department.

Forms of application and information may be obtained by writing to Miss D. Billington, Admin. Secretary, Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research, c/o The School of Pharmacy, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX.

Completed application forms must be received by 12 March 1991.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Two brains for the price of one

Susan Atkins and Elizabeth Moody were strangers when they met to discuss sharing the job of head of the women's issue section at the Home Office. After the official business they took a stroll through St James's Park in London, pushing Ms Moody's seven-month-old daughter before them in her pram.

By the end of the walk the two civil service principals had decided they could work together. "I think most women can suss each other out, and I felt we were on the same wavelength," Dr Atkins says. "At that stage it was mostly general impressions, though we discovered we had similar interests, things like opera - even the same kind of opera."

Their job share began just over a year ago, part of the civil service's response to the need to attract and retain female high-flyers. Ms Moody was returning from maternity leave; Dr Atkins, previously an academic lawyer, wanted a change of career.

They work three-fifths time and draw three-fifths each of the £27,000 a year salary the grade commands. They both come in on Mondays, using the same office with its women's suffrage posters and views over Westminster. Dr Atkins then works Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Ms Moody Thursdays and Fridays.

"The essential thing for anyone considering sharing a job is the overlap time," Dr Atkins says. "You must have at least half a day together and it must be paid for by the employer."

"Employers may have to pay a little more but they also get more. You'll never get one person who fulfils all your requirements and you've got more chance with two. You get two brains for the price of one."

The arrangement suits them, their colleagues and their minister, Angela Rumbold, who recently cited it as an example of a way round the old career/children conflict. "It works very well," she said. "Employers tend to think job sharing is only suitable for the lower-paid jobs and that is not at all the case."

Time with their children was the key factor for both Dr Atkins, aged 38, and Ms Moody, aged 36. "I think I would have had a completely different relationship with my daughter if I'd had a full-time job," Ms Moody says. "She

Job sharing can work at the highest levels, as two senior civil servants testify.

Liz Gill reports on a successful scheme to combine children and a career

would hardly have known me. She's very happy with her nanny, so maybe she would have been fine but I would have been less happy. Now I've not only got the enjoyment of being with her, but I've also been able to keep up my contacts with other mothers locally, which is good for me as well as for her."

"Before I had the baby I felt that, although I loved the work, there was a part of me, the emotional part, that was not being used. When I was on maternity leave I felt the intellectual and social side wasn't being used."

Dr Atkins's son and daughter are now at primary school, but when they were smaller she worked full-time. "I remember after I'd had my first baby I bumped into some students when I was out with the pram, and they just didn't see me. I felt as if I'd become invisible. I also felt very isolated. If you work you have the satisfaction of doing something you are skilled at. It's challenging and it's fulfilling."

"But when I was working full-time I felt as if I was disappearing between the demands of the job and the demands of the family. I felt guilty all the time. In those circumstances something has to snap, and in my case it was my health. Three months off with a painful and debilitating attack of endometriosis marked the turning point."

"Now, for the first time since I've had children, I have time for myself," she says. "It's at 9.10am on Thursdays when the kids have gone to school, my husband has gone to work, the au pair has gone to college and I can sit down with a coffee and read the newspaper. And it is wonderful."

"The time at home is really

delightful, not just because I can be with the children but because I can also be involved in the community, be there for my neighbours, help out round the school. It does sound like having your cake and eating it, but that's what being a modern woman is all about, doing traditional things and doing a good job professionally."

Their job involves co-ordinating government policy on women's issues. Officially, they work 9.15am to 5.30pm, but the days tend to become elastic. If one has more urgent domestic demands the other will tend to take on any late working.

The main problem they have encountered has been when one of them has been abroad on business. "If the job was being done by one person when that person was away everyone would accept that the work stopped," Dr Atkins says. "But the trouble is, now they can see someone physically there. I know cricketing metaphors are in vogue, but it is a case of 'they can see someone apparently batting, so they keep on bowling'."

The two have had no clashes over decision-making, she says. "Decisions are never taken in a vacuum anyway but because we work closely together we do know each other's mind set. You cannot be too rigid but you should have the same goals about policy."

Neither thinks her promotion prospects will be affected by job sharing. Ms Moody believes there has been "a real cultural shift" in the civil service over the past 10 years towards flexible working practices. There are already a handful of other job sharers at their level in other ministries and, she says, not all are women. "One man is doing it for health reasons, another because he wants to devote more time to voluntary work."

"This experience has taught me that very few jobs need to be done by one person in one place and that we need to be much more imaginative. People think job sharing has to be at a junior level because they think the work must be of the kind that can be split exactly. At a senior level you never can divide it cleanly. What you must aim for is to have someone in the office who can handle anything at any time."

The fact that they like each other is, they say, a bonus, rather than a prerequisite in job sharing. They accept they may not move together and can envisage the system working with someone else. They believe two working mothers are better off sharing one full-time position than seeking two separate part-time posts. That way, they say, you avoid the

classic trap of trying to squeeze full-time workloads into part-time hours. "When I walk out of here on a Wednesday I know Elizabeth will pick it up," Dr Atkins says. "Part-timers are also often seen as the lowest of the low. Even if the assumption is not there externally, women will often internalise it. The status thing about a job share

is that you are doing a proper job, that exists in its own right and is recognised by everyone. Both women say they have supportive husbands. "That's absolutely essential," Dr Atkins says. "You need to have a job share at home, too, and that means the nitty-gritty of helping round the house and taking time off work to take the kids to the dentist."

"Few jobs need to be done by one person in one place": Elizabeth Moody (left) and Susan Atkins



The card for all seasons

A child's idea is now a Christmas tradition

AN ENTERPRISE showing a £25 million profit - with a steady 8 per cent turnover growth - was born 41 years ago through an expression of gratitude.

At the suggestion of her Czech village school teacher, Jitka Samkova, aged seven, drew and painted a Christmas card. She sent it to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), thanking them for providing shelter, food, clothing and medical care in a Europe recovering from the ravages of world war two.

The following year, the first-ever Unicef greetings card, reproducing Jitka's creation, swiftly sold out. Since then, card sales, nearing 150 million this year, have contributed nearly £250 million to Unicef funds.

Monika Knofler, aged 43, an Austrian artist, spends six months of the year travelling through Europe, the Middle East and Africa. She is responsible for ensuring that the Greeting Card Operation (GCO), is never short of artwork for its series of cards (120 different ones this year), as well as calendars, diaries, books, games and stationery.

The artists are not paid for their work, but in return for granting reproduction rights are sent at least 200 of the eventual cards - as well as being named in the Unicef catalogue. "As many of the artists are not well-known," Ms Knofler says, "they welcome the publicity that a card run of hundreds of thousands brings them."

An example of what may result is the work of Halapova, the Yugoslav primitive painter. Her Unicef card put her on the road to fame, with exhibitions in Geneva, Tokyo, Vienna and New York.

Torgny Frykman, aged 51, the Finnish director of the GCO, makes the point that, although they compete with commercially produced cards, and benefit from the fact that profits go to charity, Unicef cards have no more than 5 per cent of the market. The biggest customer is Germany, followed by France and then North America. The cards have been sold in the Soviet Union for years, through the Red Cross, and are becoming available in China through the new Unicef national committee.

ALAN MCGREGOR

OUR MARTINI IS ROSSO



on the rocks or with tonic

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BRIEFING

Every little bit helps

THE Arts Council has formally endorsed a proposal calling for the mandatory use of artists and craftsmen on all new public buildings. The proposal — called Percent for Art — would mean that all new or refurbished hospitals, schools, community centres and even road schemes costing more than £3 million should have artistic input to the value of at least one per cent of their total cost. Already more than 40 local councils have adopted the idea as part of planning policy, and the government's recent environment white paper approved the notion.

Wesker music

THE Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, which, at the moment, is bringing a bewildering variety of Russian, Lithuanian, Romanian and other musicians to Yorkshire, will next year make its first venture into opera, in collaboration with Opera North. The piece, to be given in a newly converted theatre, will be Robert Saxton's first dramatic work, *Caritas*, with a libretto by Arnold Wesker based on his own play.

Wesker: *Caritas* librettist

Last chance...

FORTUNATELY, the story of the man who wanted his money back because the Royal Academy's show, *Monet in the 90s*, contained only a dozen paintings, is an isolated case. The lengthy queues snaking round the forecourt of Burlington House (071-439 7438) attest to the eagerness with which the public has taken to this exploration of Monet's interest in series painting. Indeed, the show is a unique opportunity to see the endless variations of light and colour that Monet could play on such themes as a group of grain stacks or the facade of Rouen cathedral. A lesson and a delight, until Sunday.

The team which turned Joe Orton into a New York success story and is bringing his work back to the London stage talks to Matt Wolf

THE British make a habit of reclaiming American playwrights for domestic consumption, as has been seen recently with Arthur Miller and Stephen Sondheim, among others. When the process works in reverse, it is usually with a single play. David Hare's *Plenty*, for example, was a decidedly bigger hit in New York than it was in London, where it is hard to imagine a fragmented play about national decline storming the West End. Joe Orton, however, offers a case study unto himself. London, of course, produces the playwright, most recently on the West End with Jonathan Lynn's revival of *Loot* (starring Gemma Craven and the late Leonard Rossiter). But the serious investigation and interest in Orton take place in New York, far from the two cities — Leicester and London — which spawned the author's unique and irrepressibly anarchic vision.

Prick Up Your Ears, Stephen Frears' film biography of Orton, elicited more attention in America than it did in Britain and helped to solidify leading actor Gary Oldman's bid for Hollywood stardom. The playwright's theatrical resuscitation, meanwhile, is due to the collaborative work of two men whose third Orton production opens in London tomorrow night. Director John Tillingier and actor Joseph Maher are making their British debut as a team with the Hampstead Theatre revival of *What the Butler Saw*, which sold out its run last year off-Broadway.

Tillingier and Maher met two decades ago while acting Shakespeare in Stratford, Connecticut. While Maher has continued to act on Broadway and off (he played the book-seller on Broadway in *84, Charing Cross Road* and starred opposite Maggie Smith in *Night and Day*), Tillingier now works primarily as a director. His most recent West End foray was the ill-fated *Love Letters*, in New York, he enjoyed success last summer directing Eileen Atkins in the British play, *Prin*.

Return of a G.I. Joe?

Bringing it all back home: Joseph Maher (left) and John Tillingier, lead actor and director of *What the Butler Saw*

Their collaboration on Orton is virtually unique in the American theatre, where the absence of genuine repertory companies means that artists follow careers that are by definition ad hoc. The duo first tackled Orton with a 1981 production of *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, which cast Maher as the sexually competitive Ed vying with his sister for the sexual favours of the young Maxwell Caulfield. Mounted on a small budget in a 68-seat theatre, the staging transferred to a larger venue for a commercial off-Broadway run that continued for almost a year.

In 1986, the duo turned to *Loot*, with Maher playing the avaricious Detective Truscott in a cast that included Zoe Wanamaker, in a rare New York performance. The show transferred to Broadway, earning Tony nominations for all three creators, and then to Los Angeles, where it ran in repertory with *Sloane*.

Last year, Tillingier and Maher returned to the Orton cycle to produce the unexpurgated version of *What the Butler Saw*. Orton's last play was first performed in 1969,

two years after he was murdered by his lover, Kenneth Halliwell. Once again, critics and audiences were enthusiastic. Frank Rich in the *New York Times* called the production "riotous," adding: "Here at last are the two hours of non-stop laughter that theatre-goers have been pursuing all season."

What, then, is their recipe for success? It is not, whatever else, a New York-style revisionism similar to that regularly practised in this country on the likes of Tennessee Williams and Eugene O'Neill. Says Tillingier: "I'm hoping it's the opposite. I'm hoping we're really listening to Orton, playing him as he intended. I personally balk at revisionism because I feel it's the playwright that I have to be true to."

As the 51-year-old Tillingier sees it, the key to success with Orton lies in playing the material straight, allowing the cockeyed logic of the text to emerge without winking sideways at the audience. *Butler*

occupies its own peculiar universe full of cross-dressing, bawdiness, and a unique theatrical double-speak that could be said to yoke George Orwell at his most pointed to the farcical set-ups of Ray Cooney. One minute, the eminently formal Dr Prentice is announcing, "I can't remember things I've forgotten"; the next, an explosion introduces into the action a large brass phallus, supposedly modelled on Winston Churchill.

"We try to keep it as real as possible, to exclude funny faces," says Tillingier, who was born in Iran but raised in Britain. "That doesn't mean funny faces don't happen because of the events of the play. Orton did say, 'You should rehearse the play as if it were serious, and the comedy comes after.' The wonderful thing is he has a logic organic to the person acting it out, even though that may not be at all logical to another person."

Tillingier thinks the success of the plays in the Eighties may owe something to Orton's unexpected affinities with the language of the decade. "We were living in a very crazy time, during the 1960s. There were all these strange gobbledygook things being said on television. Oliver North at one point said: 'I do not remember whether I recalled that at the time.' When you think about it, it's an Orton phrase."

"I really do think this is a farce of the 20th century," says Tillingier, pointing out that Orton, in his own subver-

sive way, may be just as political as many of his more banner-waving peers. "There are a lot of people who decry Orton here; as if he's old hat, and who's interested? Some of the greyer writers don't realise how political this particular play is. There's a mayhem here, a microcosm of 20th-century life, which is Kafkaesque to a certain extent."

For Maher, *What the Butler Saw* offers the 56-year-old actor a belated stage debut in the country he left at the age of 22, prior to emigrating to Canada. The actor, one of ten children from County Mayo in Ireland, says he admires Orton's breadth.

"Whether this is a comedy or a farce seems rather beside the point; it comes across as being a major play," he says of his current assignment, which casts him as Dr Rance, a government inspector on visit to an asylum. "This is really awful stuff, but awful in the right way. In *Sloane*, you move from comedy to the killing of somebody to a third act that is total farce. It's like a gift somebody gives to you to be allowed to say this stuff."

Neither man knew Orton, though Maher — born the same year as the playwright — says there is a pilgrimage to Noel Road in north London that he intends to make. "I do want to go along to the street he lived on and just pass by," Maher says. "I want to say, 'Thank you, Joe.'"

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Still surprising

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, 75 at the end of the week, talks to John Higgins

In celebration of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf's 75th birthday on Sunday, EMI, for whom she has made nearly all her recordings, is issuing a collection of six CDs. There is old and well-loved material, digitally remastered, such as the *Italianisches Liederbuch* with Fischer-Dieskau and Gerald Moore. There is Schwarzkopf singing opera and Schwarzkopf singing lullabies, including a magical version of "Danny Boy", made in 1956.

But the CD likely to attract most attention (CDM7 63655 2) is of hitherto unpublished recordings. These range from Strauss's *Four Last Songs*, recorded live at a Festival Hall concert in 1956 with Karajan — a performance of exceptional emotional depth — to a collection of children's songs composed by the great pianist, Walter Gieseking. Few people know that Gieseking was a composer.

In London a few days ago, Schwarzkopf confessed that she had not heard *Four Last Songs* yet. She is likely to be pleased, despite her ferocious reputation for criticism — of herself as much as others. But she had a very clear recollection of the Gieseking.

"It happened by chance. I was recording some Mozart with him at Abbey Road and we finished the sessions a day early. He asked me if I would like to look at his own songs, set to texts written in a kind of North German kiddytalk. I studied them overnight and we went back to the studios the following day. It was almost sight reading, but I have become rather fond of them, with their touches of Ravel and Debussy. As you might expect, the piano part is of great beauty."

Gieseking was a man of great emotion. About that time Walter [Legge, Schwarzkopf's late husband] and I had just finished making *Falsstaff* with Karajan. One night we played the tape to Gieseking. He flew into a great rage, furious that he had lived so many years without ever hearing this music before."

Schwarzkopf's recording of the Bach cantata *Mein Herz schwimmt im Blut*, with Thurston Dart conducting, would

not be fashionable today: the tone is far too rich. She is, however, unrepentant about that. "It has a smooth, rhythmic quality about it; I wouldn't mind using it in masterclasses to demonstrate the art of singing."

The earliest item on *Les Encores* (CDM 7 63654 2) is Johann Strauss's "Frühlingstimmen", recorded with Josef Krips and the Vienna Philharmonic in 1946. It shows Schwarzkopf's voice at its most silvery, and it also has a treasured memory attached to it. "I think it was a piece I used in my first audition for Walter." Legge was recruiting the roster of artists which would make him the most powerful recording producer in post-war Europe. "He was in Vienna and had heard me on the radio. He asked me to meet him at the Café Mozart — where else? So I put on a hat — I hate hats and never wear them — because I was going to meet an English gentleman."

"We talked, and he took me straight off to the Musikverein where he found a pianist and made me sing. He put me through my paces, and it lasted a long time. Wolf Strauss, Mozart, 'Frühlingstimmen' probably. Karajan was there at the time and accused Walter of cruelty to singers. He should talk! We singers served Karajan very well over the years, but he was never good at saying thank you. For all his greatness there was a certain meanness of character."

On the *Encores* collection, which song is Schwarzkopf's personal favourite? "I'm fond of 'Plaisir d'amour' but I think I'll join you with 'Danny Boy'. There is perhaps a little German inflection, but it is moving. Touching the heart must always be uppermost in our profession."

Apart from some *Lieder* discs made during the war, have all Schwarzkopf's recordings been supervised by Legge? For the first time, she pauses. "I've never been asked before. The answer has to be yes. I never considered working with anyone else — and, in any case, I don't think he would have let me."



Elisabeth Schwarzkopf: unrepentant of her rich tone

The English Chamber Orchestra plays Mozart, with champagne accompaniment.

As part of our Mozart Bicentenary Festival, we are proud to announce that the English Chamber Orchestra will be taking part in a series of concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Banqueting Hall. And in the latter venue, appropriately enough, champagne and canapés will be served.

Currently engaged in recording the complete Mozart symphonies under Jeffrey Tate, the ECO has long been renowned for its performances of Mozart. During these concerts, it will be joined by such virtuosos as Marcello Viotti, Ingrid Haebler, Elizabeth Leonskaja, Elena Duran, Emilia Moskvitina and Janice Watson.

For tickets, please post the coupon below or ring the hot line on (071) 793 0900 for credit card bookings. And celebrate Mozart's music with champagne and the English Chamber Orchestra.

December 7, Banqueting Hall, 7pm. ECO Wind Ensemble; Elizabeth Leonskaja, piano; Divertimento for wind in B Flat, K196; Quintet in E flat for piano and wind, K452; Serenade in B flat for 13 wind instruments, K361. Tickets are £49, including champagne and canapés. Booking code: E BAH TDEC K.

December 8, Banqueting Hall, 7pm. Maciej Rakowski, director; Elena Duran, flute; Emilia Moskvitina, harp; Janice

Watson, soprano: Serenade in D (Serenata Notturna), K239; "Ach ich fühl's" (aria from The Marriage of Figaro); Concerto for flute and harp in C, K299; Concerto aria "Bella mia fiamma... resta, oh caro" K528; Cassation in G, K63. Tickets are £49, including champagne and canapés. Booking code: E BAH SDEC K.

December 10, QEHL, 7.45pm.

Conductor to be announced. Violinist: Frank Peter Zimmermann. Symphony No.25 in G Minor, K183; Violin Concerto in G, K216; Adagio in E, K261; Rondo in C, K373; Symphony No.41 in C, Jupiter, K551. Tickets are £15, £13, £11, £7 and £5. Booking code: E QEHL DEC K.

December 11, QEHL, 7.45pm. Marcello

Viotti, conductor; Ingrid Haebler, piano; Symphony No.35, Haffner, K385; Piano Concerto in A, K414; Symphony No.39 in E Flat, K543. Tickets are £13, £11, £9, £7.50, £5. Booking code: E QEHL DEC K.

To book by post, fill in the coupon below. Cheques should be made out to Keith Prowse Co Ltd. For the Queen Elizabeth Hall concerts, please nominate a second choice ticket price. Send the coupon to: The Sunday Times/The Times Mozart Bicentenary Festival, PO Box 2, London W6 0LQ.

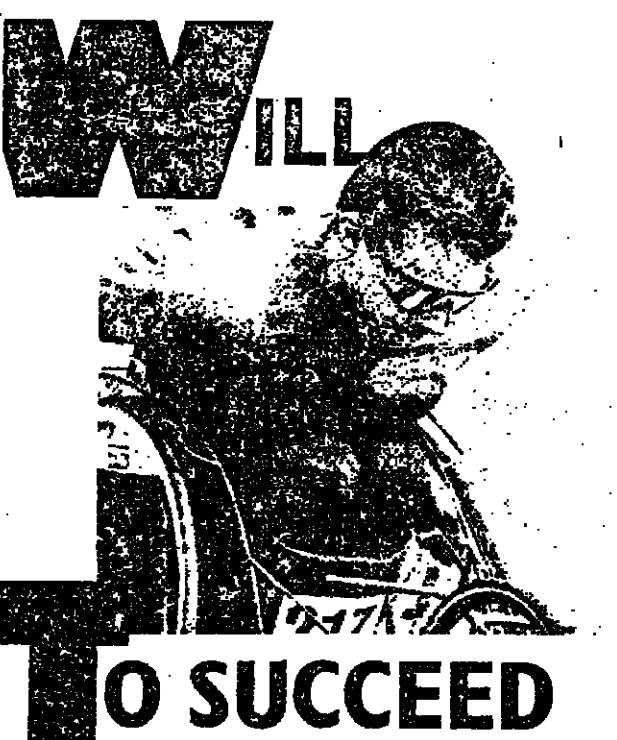
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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH TEACHER TRAINING?

Reforms have not silenced the critics. News Focus finds out if they are right.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT Friday

TELEVISION

Not the whole story

DANIEL Wiles's *South Bank Show* (ITV, last night) on Cameron Mackintosh was fine as far as it went, which was not nearly far enough. In traditional tele-tribute style, it told the story of an initially unsuccessful but perennially stage-struck impresario who became, with *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables* and *Miss Saigon*, the most successful musical producer since Rodgers and Hammerstein.

In that sense, it was the classic 42nd Street scenario of the optimistic teenage stagehand who becomes a star. What needs to be examined with Mackintosh, though, is something more than his roots in the magic piano of Julian Slade's *Salad Days*. Alone among British producers, he has changed both the industrial and the geographic structure of the stage musical, and in this programme there was too little about a franchising operation which has *Cats* in almost as many cities as there are McDonald's hamburger outlets.

Mackintosh is barely 40 and has had more than 20 years in a backstage business he has turned from a cottage industry into a global production empire. Among the tributes from Lloyd Webber and Sondheim, there should have been more about the economics and the logistics of his business, as well as the influence that Mackintosh projects such as the "new musicals" scheme at the National or the Oxford drama professorship will have in the future.

The real story is of the role of the producer as creator, and of the way his battle was taken into the Broadway heartland of the musical, rather as though a team of American actors had been allowed to run Stratford and the Barbican for a decade. But there was no sign of Trevor Nunn, or Hal Prince, Mackintosh's directors, nor of an all-important marketing and packaging team.

To have John Caird announce that all the initial *Les Mis* reviews were hostile is demonstrably untrue. The result was an entertaining but bland celebrity interview, instead of a detailed analysis of Mackintosh and the stage musical, at a time when Broadway is still reeling from his victory over American Equity objections to *Miss Saigon*.

SATURDAY was Aids night, marked by Red Hot and Blue (Channel 4), a catastrophically misguided attempt to drag Cole Porter into the age of the rock video. Porter himself was determined to hide his homosexuality from his affluent, conservative audience, which would have been shocked. He would, therefore, have made an implausible Aids crusader. More important, Porter's words and music depend on an intelligent, precisely timed and immaculately inflected delivery, which was beyond the capabilities of Sinead O'Connor, Annie Lennox, Debbie Harry and a cast of many more.

This reviewer abandoned the mishmash when a man looking like the late Truman Capote (after a rough night) decided to murder "From This Moment On". The fact that Porter was lucky enough to belong to a gay generation which did not suffer Aids is an insufficient reason for slaughtering his work in its name.

Switching over at that point meant joining BBC 2's *Common Threads* midway. This documentary detailed with integrity and intelligence the first decade of Aids and its effect on an America which came to understand, too little and too late, the extent and meaning of a plague which was in no sense of the word. Of all the interviewees, the most memorable was a man who said he was reading a copy of *Life* magazine around 1985 which said that now was the moment to take Aids seriously, since it was no longer only affecting gays. "I wondered," said the man, "how many of us were reading that magazine at the time."

SHERIDAN MORLEY

هكذا من الأصل



European Actor of the Year in the Young European Film of the Year: Kenneth Branagh (left) with Brian Blessed in Branagh's *Henry V*

For Harry and Kenneth

Britain scored a surprise success in last night's European Film Awards in Glasgow, when Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* was voted Young European Film of the Year. Branagh himself took the award for European Actor of the Year. The European Film of the Year was the Italian *Open Doors*, directed by Gianni Amelio.

The EFA, held this year in Glasgow's new Royal Concert Hall, are Europe's answer to America's Academy Awards. The award statuette itself, the "Felix", is a teenage mutant something-or-other, holding a cockle, and cannot match the art deco poise of the sexagenarian Oscar. On the other hand, the European system of adjudication seems a good deal more practical than that of the American Academy, which involves taking into account the votes of its hundreds of members, many of them long ago retired from active involvement in film.

On this side of the Atlantic, the plan is that each of the 27 European participant countries proposes three titles, to compete in the categories European Film of the Year, Young European Film of the Year, and five for Young European Film of the Year. The documentaries are judged by a separate jury, which announces its winner ahead of the awards - this year a Latvian film, *Ivans Seletskis's Pūpechņava Street*.

Finally, in the week before the awards ceremony, the main jury views the 12 nominated feature films. In addition to the main awards there are a dozen other prizes for acting and technical achievement, following much the same pattern as the Oscars.

The president of the jury this year was Ingmar Bergman, taking on such a responsibility for the first time in his long career. However, on Saturday he was reported to have suffered a severe nervous collapse; he remained out of action yesterday and even before the ceremony was said to be on his way home.

His colleagues comprised four women - Deborah Kerr, Jeanne Moreau, the German director Margarete von Trotta and the doyenne of European screenwriters, Suso Cecchi d'Amico - and two men, Theo Angelopoulos and Andrei Smirnov, directors

At last night's European Film Awards, there was an unexpected double victory for the host nation, as David Robinson reports

- EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 1990
- European Film of the Year: *Open Doors*
 - Young European Film of the Year: *Henry V*
 - European Actor of the Year: Kenneth Branagh for *Henry V*
 - European Actress of the Year: Carmen Maura for *Ay Carmela!* (Spain)
 - European Supporting Actor of the Year: Dmitri Pevsov in *Mother* (Soviet Union)
 - European Supporting Actress of the Year: Malin Ek in *The Guardian Angel* (Sweden)
 - European Cinema Society Special Award: Gian-Maria Volonte for his "genius and generosity"
 - Special Jury Award: *December Bride* (Director: Thaddeus O'Sullivan, Ireland)
 - European Screenwriter of the Year: Vitali Kanievski for *Lie Still - Die - Revive* (Soviet Union)
 - European Cinematographer of the Year: Tonino Nardi for *Open Doors* (Italy)
 - European Production Designer of the Year: Ezio Frigerio and Franca Squarciapina for *Cyrano de Bergerac* (France)
 - European Film Composer of the Year: No prize awarded
 - European Lifetime Achievement: Andrzej Wajda

from Greece and the Soviet Union respectively.

Their task was hardly easy, having to choose between films as unlike as Aki Kaurismäki's austere, minimalist *The Match Factory Girl* and Jean-Paul Rappeneau's spectacular *Cyrano de Bergerac*, or Gleb Panfilov's epic reworking of Maxim Gorky's old Marxist classic, *Mother*, or between Carlos Saura's picaresque tale of touring actors in the Spanish Civil War, *Ay Carmela!* and Ryszard Bugajski's harrowing tale of Stalin-era brainwashing, *Interrogation*, a Polish film suppressed for nine years.

Britain's submission for the European Prize, Peter Greenaway's *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, was rejected

provide the possibility to contest the Hollywood hegemony.

Fulfilling the dream is the hard part. How, asks Roberto Barzanti, president of the European Parliament Commission on Youth, Culture, Education, Media and Sport (a large portfolio), is Europe "to retain its separate new identities while at the same time developing its 'culture industry' which will become competitive in the single market as well as throughout the rest of the world?" In the words of Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, "culture is not just a product like any other."

The European Commission is set to spend around 250 million euros on solving the problem. Its media programme has a mass of associated agencies with acronyms such as Babel (Broadcasting Across the Barriers of European Language), Eave (European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs), Efto (European Film Distribution Office), Cartoon, Euro-Memoire and Eureka. The European Script Fund has been operating in London since December 1988.

The dinner-jackets and junking of Glasgow, then, are only the public face of all this activity and ambition. The serious side came on Saturday at a conference on European co-production, with such provocative topics as "The Mythic Market" and "What are the Americans up to in Europe?"

The awards have cost Glasgow a fair sum of money, though the city has been assisted financially by the British Film Institute, the Scottish Film Council and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, as well as by the European Community and the Senate of Berlin, which invented the awards three years ago.

Glasgow, like Paris last year, was chosen to host the awards in its role as European City of Culture, next year's City of Culture, is probably relieved to yield the onerous honour to Berlin, chosen as the location for the 1991 awards in tribute to the city's reunification.

The European Film Awards 1990 will be broadcast on Channel 4 tonight, 10pm - 12.20am.

EXHIBITION

Rich evidence of a brief, bleak life

War poet and artist, Isaac Rosenberg doubly merits recognition, argues Joseph Connolly

This past week marked the centenary of the birth of Isaac Rosenberg, a member of that small, doomed coterie known collectively as the "war poets". The Imperial War Museum is honouring his memory and celebrating his talents within the fields of both poetry and painting with a compact and accessible exhibition which - given the facts of Rosenberg's brief, bleak and frustrated life - can also be somewhat dispiriting.

Isaac Rosenberg was born in Bristol on November 25, 1890, moving to the East End of London with his parents seven years later. He attended school for just seven more years, insisting later that throughout this time he was either drawing with chalk on the pavements, or else reading poetry "with a passion". The relative poverty of his family forced him into a succession of jobs which he hated, giving him a strong feeling of isolation. Throughout his life the conviction that he was an "outsider" persisted: a working-class Jew within an established Christian culture.

While attending evening classes at the art school of Burbeck College, he secured the patronage of a trio of wealthy Jewish ladies, thus enabling him to attend the Slade as a contemporary of Stanley Spencer, David Bomberg and Mark Gertler. Shortly before this, Rosenberg wrote in a letter to a friend: "I really would like to take up painting seriously; I think I might do something at that; but poetry - I despair of ever writing excellent poetry. I can't look at things in the simple large way that great poets do."

However, the drawings and paintings of this early period, currently on display, betray no sign of a latent, flowering genius. The sketches are art-school competent, whereas the oils - despite Rosenberg's self-confessed devotion to Rossetti - are cramped, muddy and uninspired. In 1912 Rosenberg printed a pamphlet of his poems - *Night and Day* - and although the quality of his painting had improved out of all recognition by the time he left the Slade in 1914, poetry was now in the ascendancy.



Recruit: Rosenberg in 1917

Nearly all of his letters of the 1915-1916 period concern verbal rather than visual images, al-

though by now his portraiture - and in particular his self-portraiture - had become quite striking. Rosenberg was acutely aware of his Semitic appearance, and yet played up to great effect the heavy-lidded eyes and sometimes quite negroish fullness of the mouth. His drawings of this period acquired a chunky strength reminiscent of Eric Gill, and his favoured sitters (one of whom was his sister) were drawn from an inferior position, so that their apparently repressed noses were seen to loom and pout the very full lips.

Had Rosenberg been allowed to continue as a painter, it seems likely that a new and sensual lushness might have emerged - although in his introductory memoirs to a 1922 collection of Rosenberg's verse, friend and fellow poet Laurence Binyon said: "I think it possible that he would have abandoned painting. For his true vocation was poetry, and he thought of himself as a poet rather than as a painter."

Throughout his youth Rosenberg had suffered from a weak chest, among other disabilities, together with a sensitivity which in itself could come close to crippling him. It remains an astounding fact, then, that in 1916 (possibly due to poverty, though certainly in the face of protests from his fiercely pacifist parents) Rosenberg enlisted in the army, and was almost immediately sent to fight in France.

For the next two years, he suffered appalling privations on the Front at the Somme, permanently breathless, wet and hungry, and yet writing the finest poems of his life - some would say the greatest of the Great War, the immediacy, force and pitiless truth of Rosenberg's verse rendering even some of Wilfred Owen's work over-designed to the modern ear, and maybe over-reflective as well. Rupert Brooke's images perhaps are the most lasting, but even Brooke can sometimes seem anodyne coming fresh from Rosenberg (who once wrote of Brooke's poems: "They remind me too much of flag days").

The best of Rosenberg resonates with a deep-wrung and heart-felt truth, underpinned by the necessary and pitiless numbing of the wilder senses, and shot through with tenderness. As he himself wrote: "I will not leave a corner of my consciousness covered up, but saturate myself with the strange and extraordinary new conditions of this life, and it will all refine itself into poetry later on."

This renders all the more poignant the surprisingly ample array of dog-eared notebooks, documents and letters on display, some rubbed illegible across the creases from repeated folding, unfolding and holding. The feeling is well reinforced by glimpses through a pierced wall of John Singer Sargent's vast and famous canvas "Gassed", depicting a straggling line of bandaged and bewildered soldiers, each with his arm on the shoulder of the next, stumbling through a devastated landscape: quite literally, the blind leading the blind.

On March 28, 1918, Rosenberg wrote in a letter to Edward Marsh: "I think I wrote you I was about to go up the line again after our little rest. We are now in the trenches again, and though I feel very sleepy, I just have a chance to answer your letter, so I will while I may. It's really my being lucky enough to bag an inch of candle that incites me to this pitch of punctual epistolary. I must measure my letter by the light..."

Three days later - on All Fool's Day, 1918 - Isaac Rosenberg was dead, killed while on night patrol at the age of 27. Eight years on, the location of his death was discovered by the Imperial War Graves Commission, its letter to the family stating: "It is therefore certain that his body is one of those found, but unfortunately it is not possible to say which."

Isaac Rosenberg: Poet and Painter at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (071-416 5000). Until April 2. Admission to museum £3, concessions £1.50.

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Influen-tial
Princess Michael of Kent in the December
TATTLER

Bright tones lighten a grey sky

OPERA

Pelléas et Mélisande
Coliseum

THIS is not at all an ethereal vision of Debussy's opera. The voices, in what is a very beautifully sung performance, are full, centred and physical, and Mark Elder cultures the orchestral score into a remarkable, sensuous warmth, yet another testimony to the achievements of the finest conductor-orchestra team in London.

However, remembering the *Wozzeck* performances earlier this season may make one less happy with what David Pountney has done this time as producer, and still less happy with Marie-Jeanne Lecca's designs. The problem with the uniform set is not only its ugliness or its almost unbelievably black and grey colour scheme, but also the fact that it yields little to changes in lighting.

At the left is a great curving curtain wall; in the middle a quadrilateral platform hangs over real water; to the right is a high broken wall containing a lift door. A hint of the Thirties is taken up in the tubular chrome furniture, which includes what must be the only art deco pie-dieu in existence. But the most conspicuous failure is *Mélisande's* hideous and absurd hair in the lower scene.

Perhaps this indicates a misplaced desire to embody on stage what ought to be suggested. The presence of water, for instance, is less useful than occasions might have been, for though, of course, water is present all through the text and the score, its colours and rhythms are not those of real water: when one sees actual reflections rippling across the stage, they seem out of place, and even, wrong beside the reality contained in the music.

On the more positive side, Pountney and Cathryn Pope offer

Cathryn Pope and Thomas Randle in the lead roles of David Pountney's *Pelléas et Mélisande*

a plausible view of *Mélisande* as a cousin to Lulu: a woman who is innocently provocative, fearful of the effect she has, but ignorant of its cause, since she herself is disturbingly passionate. Given several changes of costume before she enters into a red maternity dress for the last two acts, she shows a lot of leg, and the décor helps give a hint of the screen goddess, but the allure is there, too, in her singing, which is wonderfully true and poised, enrapturing without conveying any rapture coming from within.

The effect is cataclysmic on this studious Pelléas in dark clothing

and small spectacles, a Hamlet down from Wittenberg: in embarrassment he clutches the wall and cannot look at her. Thomas Randle's high vocal aridity and sure, beautiful tone, however, suggest a response that is not at all hesitant: the singing tells a truth that the acting still wants to deny. Willard White's Golaud, by contrast, is wholly unconvincing about himself. He is a noble being, singing with the richness and openness the part surprisingly yields to a real bass. His vividly portrayed jealousy (the comparison with Othello becomes inescapable) reflects fault on others rather

than on himself, and his final prostration is complete. This is altogether a magnificent performance. In smaller parts, Anne-Marie Owens sings her letter beautifully. John Connell provides grave tones for an Arkel who is still mystified by the world (his scene with *Mélisande* becomes the tenderest in the opera, because she has no fear of him and he believes his feelings for her to be grand-paternal: both, of course, are mistaken), and Yvette Bonner, at 17, offers at once power and a wild treble edge to make an effective Yniold.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

CONCERT

Symphony of
a Thousand
Festival Hall

WHEN more than 400 singers and players assemble on the Festival Hall platform (or, in the case of the off-stage brass, somewhere near the roof), it seems churlish to complain of insufficient vocal power. But Mahler's Eighth Symphony carries the nickname "Symphony of a Thousand" for good reasons. Listening to the Philharmonia Chorus and the Southend Boys' Choir battling heroically, but sometimes in vain, to project crucial melodic lines through the barrage of sound thrown out by a Philharmonia Orchestra swollen to 140 players, few in the audience could have felt that this was the balance of voices to instruments envisaged by Mahler.

That problem, and a few jolting gear-changes in the first movement, diminished the impact of this massive work. With so many different strands of the music hitting the listener simultaneously, a conductor must clearly signpost the predominant line throughout. And to indulge in speed changes that halve or double the pulse in the course of one

movement is simply inviting the disipation of the tension.

Yet there were many electrifying moments. The orchestral playing, apart from one or two scrappy phrases from the fiddles, was punchy and spirited; the chorus's entry hushed and mysterious on "Alles Vergänglich" (Goethe's magnificent, if almost untranslatable contemplation of eternity); and the grand reprise, with the Festival Hall organ adding its gargantuan pennyworth, suitably resplendent. Of the eight soloists, the soprano Cheryl Studds floated some superb high notes, and the tenor Keith Lewis (stepping in at short notice) seized his chances in style.

The symphony remains a paradox: such a vast, confident and highly public statement of a blandly optimistic text (a confusing amalgam of Goethe and Catholicism) that the depressive Mahler could barely have convinced himself he believed in for an instant. It is, however, a triumph of musical thought over non-musical philosophy. In the end, that optimism has nothing to do with the sentiment of the text and everything to do with Mahler's growing faith that the fires lit by his own stupendous creativity would be unquenchable. So it is proved, 80 years on.

RICHARD MORRISON

CONCERT

Capricorn
St Pancras Church

FEARFUL, perhaps, of an aggressively separatist breed of feminism, many people might ask if a festival called "Women in Music" is really necessary. After all, nowadays it is probably far easier for a female musician to enter her chosen profession than for her political equivalent to get a job in the cabinet.

However, this festival is less a campaigning act than a celebration, and anyone fearing a separatist atmosphere would have been reassured by the fact that this, the second concert in the series, was given by Capricorn, a group which happened, on this occasion, to be mainly male.

All of the music was, of course, by women. Jennifer Fowler's *Reeds, reflections... ripples* resounds... for oboe and string trio, specially commissioned for this concert, was a slight disappointment. Though its loosely canonic construction allowed it to build to a momentum, its eloquence seemed stifled, and its textures and colours rather restricted.

In contrast, Nicola LeFanu's *Lament* (1988) — for oboe and cor anglais, clarinet and bass clarinet,

viola and cello — makes maximum use of available colours and registers. Though the textures are often sparse, with the accent on unisons and octaves, LeFanu keeps the music rhythmically alive, and hence successfully combines lyrical eloquence with drama. Despite its equally admirable fluent and evocative invention, Julia Usher's small suite, *Aquarelle* (1983), played excellently by Ileana Rühemann, here seemed an oddly balanced work, its "Frontispiece" an imposing introduction to the three miniatures which follow it.

Judith Weir's *Distance and Enchantment* (1988), for piano and voice, has its own quirkiness, but in this case it works. The piece is a typical mixture of down-to-earth forthrightness and twinkling folkish fantasy: in short, a work with a strong and engaging personality behind it. We also heard two Soviet works. Elena Firsova's 1980 *Spring Sonata* for flute and piano demonstrates this composer's intuitive and intense sense of poetry, with the piano's register carefully matched to that of the flute. Sofia Gubaidulina's 1979 *In Croce* for cello and organ (Timothy Mason and Catherine Edwards) is a dark flower of a piece, its clustered textures unfolding in a gut but moving testimony.

STEPHEN PETTITT

from Karin von Arolingen, who danced the first duet in Balanchine's original cast. Deborah Bull and Phillip Broomhead are the better of two Royal Ballet casts in this, although neither Bull nor Broomhead can manage convincingly the curious step which looks like a crab turning somersaults. Bull also seems to look coy in the more tripping passages.

However, the energy of the whole cast in the edgy, quick-changing movements of the opening *locata*, and its swift entries in the final capriccio are more

impressive than this company has managed recently in Balanchine's ballets. The second duet ("Aria II") is beautifully done by Viviana Durante with Cassidy.

Both score and choreography here invite a lyrical quality, unlike the rest of the ballet, and this couple give it a great depth of feeling, allowing the movements their full value.

The dance is all the more touching for laying bare, without sentimentality, a human relationship in entirely formal terms.

JOHN PERCIVAL

NEW RELEASES

THE BIG PICTURE (18) David Edgar on Hollywood moving from two stars of *The Spanish Tragedy*, Christopher Reeve and Michael McKean, with Kevin Bacon as a young director, the most realistic of the three.

COME SEE THE PARADISE (18) Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American dream of the 1920s after Pearl Harbor. Handicapped by the fact that the script is weak and the director is out of control. With Dennis Quaid, Oded Feroch, and Alan Parker.

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18) Robert Evans and Nicholas Richardson's story of a woman who falls in love with a man who is a doctor. With Susan Sarandon, Michael McKean, and Christopher Reeve.

LOVE HURTS (18) Family tribulations and a wedding weekend. Lumpy comedy-drama bogged down in cliché, partially redeemed by passionate performances. With Susan Sarandon, Michael McKean, and Christopher Reeve.

THE SHELTERING SKY (18) A chilling novel by Peter Brown. With a warning of a dark future. With Susan Sarandon, Michael McKean, and Christopher Reeve.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated in the country.

Barbarian (18) (18) Hilarious satire of Robert Breton's mysticism, compelling first released in 1957 — based on the experience of a French Resistance writer imprisoned by the Gestapo.

BLUE STEEL (18) Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow. James Le Gros stars as a police cop embroiled with a psychotic killer.

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18) Robert Evans and Nicholas Richardson's story of a woman who falls in love with a man who is a doctor. With Susan Sarandon, Michael McKean, and Christopher Reeve.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

Old Red Lion, St John's Street, N1 0JL (01-637 7816) Undergound, Angel, Tues-Sun 8pm. Undergound, Angel, Tues-Sun 8pm.

HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Paddy Keady, Peter Garmston and Simon Gray's thought-provoking play about the British Empire. Undergound, Charing Cross, Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 10.30pm.

INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fantasy, romance and格林 in the first half, but turns deadly thereafter. Phoenix, Charing Cross, Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 10.30pm.

JUST DO IT: A 90-minute musical on the making of a pop star, costume changes, choreography, stagecraft, etc. Theatre, 200 Old Kent Road, N16 (01-637 1000) Undergound, Old Kent Road, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 8pm. Running time 2hrs 30mins.

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Spool of Gothic romance, ranging between the farcical, the macabre and the body horror. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (01-637 6111) Undergound, Leicester Square, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 8pm. Running time 2hrs.

NO ONE SEES THE VIDEO: Celia Hunt, Stephen Tompkinson and Martin Crimp's well-timed and patchy glimpse at the world of a married couple. Theatre, 200 Old Kent Road, N16 (01-637 1000) Undergound, Old Kent Road, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 8pm. Running time 2hrs 15mins.

OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden pulls Michael Williams' picaresque farce. Theatre, 200 Old Kent Road, N16 (01-637 1000) Undergound, Old Kent Road, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 8pm. Running time 2hrs 15mins.

PRIVATE LIVES: Keith Barber, Joan Collins and Sam Corbett in Corbett's comedy. Undergound, Covent Garden, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun, 8pm. Running time 2hrs 15mins.

THE REHEARSAL: Ian McKellen's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Carrott) of Anouilh's seduction play. Theatre, Charing Cross, Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 10.30pm.

THE HEALER: Who shall doctor the doctor? Undergound, Charing Cross, Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 10.30pm.

LES TROIS: After his double performance last week in Glasgow, Scottish Opera again mounts both parts of Berlioz's towering epic. With John Markowitz conducting, the Scottish Opera Chorus and the Scottish Opera Orchestra as Cantata are physically and vocally heroic in the wild. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1000/1011), 5.30pm.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: The most successful performance of Alan Bennett's new stage version of the Kenneth Grahame classic for all ages, written in 1963. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1000/1011), 5.30pm.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

PULTON

(a) Regiment of infantry in India under the British rule, from the Hindi *pulta*, a stick or club, meaning the English bayonet. Wellington: "I shall probably destroy some camps and put them, which have been indiscreetly pushed across the Kistna."

TAXING

(a) Mugging a person in order to steal his or her convertible foreigner, a fashionable new offence. "The principle of taxing — mugging to steal shoes — is well established in the tough cauldrons of America's inner cities. Victims have been shot and killed for their sneakers."

FALCATE

(b) Bent or hooked like a sickle, usually in botanical and biological jargon, from the Latin *falcis*, *falcis* a sickle. The mandibles of Lampyris are falcate.

TAMIS

(a) A sleeve made of cloth, still used in jazz and jilly making, from the 12th-century French word: "The best bread is of the finest wheat flour, which has passed through a small tamis butter."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Kene, Chess Correspondent

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TAMIS

BBC 1

6.00 **Ceeba**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando
8.50 **Daytime UK** With Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spence in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Swire**, Quiz game 9.25 **Dish of the Day**, Culinary advice from Rosemary Moon 9.30 **People Today**. The lives of people across the UK are viewed by Adrian Mills and Judi Jones. Rona Phillips and the Open Line team tackle viewers' questions and Lalla Aitken presents a flower-arranging feature
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC** introduced by Simon Pegg with plays by (10.15) **Barney**, (10.25) **People Today**, including the *Kitchen* cartoon
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kilroy**. Topical discussion show with a studio audience, hosted by Robert Kilroy-Silk. 11.45 **Before Noon**. Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spence arrange the music of *Barrow* quiz
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **Afternoon**. Antiques Roadshow Gems. Clips from the archives featuring David Battie, the show's expert on antiques from the Far East
12.20 **Scene Today**. The daily entertainment programme from Pebble Mill 12.55 **Regional news and weather**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton

BBC 2

6.00 **News**
6.15 **Westminster**. A round-up of business from the Lords and Commons
6.30 **Steam Into Summer**. A fast and Down's Dart Valley Railway
9.00 **Sport: Crazy**. Strange Australian sports (r)
9.40 **Film: Getting Garter's Garter** (1945, b/w). Knockabout comedy with Dennis O'Keefe struggling to retrieve a garter from an old girlfriend to avoid trouble with his wife. Directed by Allan Dwan
10.55 **After Hours**. An interview with singer Belinda Carlisle 11.15 **Town Portraits**. Boston, Lincolnshire (r) 11.20 **The Boys with the White Stuff**. How a Derby winner helped to paint the white lines on our roads (r) 11.50 **Mosaic**. A film which considers racism in comedy. Followed at 12.20 by a discussion on how black and Asian people are portrayed in the media
1.20 **Pigeon Street** (r) 1.35 **Curry on Ice**
2.00 **News and weather** followed by *Songs of Praise* (r). (Ceeba) 2.35 in the garden. Director's advice on fruit trees 2.50 **Behind the Screen**. Della Smith talks about her series *Della Smith's Christmas*
3.00 **News and weather** followed by 3.00 **The Home Front**. The last programme in the series about the impact of housing in Britain (r) (Ceeba) 3.45 **Holiday Outings**. A self-catering holiday in Wales (r) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather
4.00 **Catchword**. Quiz game 4.30 **Behind the Headlines** with Jane Corbin
5.00 **Film: Miracles** (1947, b/w). Griffith Jones is a doctor on a fishing holiday who casts his rod and reels in a mermaid (Glynis Johns). She persuades him to take her back to London, where she poses as an invalid patient. Unassuming comedy from a hit play.

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50pm *Gardeners* for 1.20pm-1.50pm. 2.30pm-3.15pm *Ant and Dec* for 2.30pm-3.15pm. 4.00pm-4.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 4.00pm-4.30pm. 5.00pm-5.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 5.00pm-5.30pm. 6.00pm-6.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 6.00pm-6.30pm. 7.00pm-7.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 7.00pm-7.30pm. 8.00pm-8.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 8.00pm-8.30pm. 9.00pm-9.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 9.00pm-9.30pm. 10.00pm-10.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 10.00pm-10.30pm. 11.00pm-11.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 11.00pm-11.30pm. 12.00pm-12.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 12.00pm-12.30pm. 1.00pm-1.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 1.00pm-1.30pm. 2.00pm-2.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 2.00pm-2.30pm. 3.00pm-3.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 3.00pm-3.30pm. 4.00pm-4.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 4.00pm-4.30pm. 5.00pm-5.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 5.00pm-5.30pm. 6.00pm-6.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 6.00pm-6.30pm. 7.00pm-7.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 7.00pm-7.30pm. 8.00pm-8.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 8.00pm-8.30pm. 9.00pm-9.30pm *Ant and Dec* for 9.00pm-9.30pm. 10.00pm-10.30pm *Ant and Dec* 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SPORT 33-38

BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Plans for
Airbus
confirmed
by BAe

BRITISH Aerospace said reports that consortium partners in Airbus Industrie planned to turn the aircraft maker into a trading company within a year were "close to the mark".

Daimler-Benz and BAe want to turn Airbus into a trading company before it becomes a fully-fledged corporation in which the European public will be able to buy shares.

A BAe spokesman said the report was "close to the mark" and reflected the aims of BAe and its Airbus partners to develop a more competitive stance in the future.

The members of the Airbus consortium are Daimler-Benz with 38 per cent, BAe with 20 per cent, France's Societe Nationale Industrielle Aerospatiale with 38 per cent and Spain's Casa with 4 per cent.

Airbus currently trades as a group of economic interest (GIE), a French corporate concept, and does not file accounts. In September Jean Pierson, Airbus chairman, said the consortium would this year make its first operating profit since it was set up 20 years ago.

It has been reported that the European Commission was keen to make Airbus the first European company, but incorporation on a European basis could take years. Gerhard Jener, Daimler's finance director, said the alternative was to incorporate Airbus as a French company with foreign shareholders, which could happen by end-1991.

TUC chief turns
down Guinness

Campbell Christie, Scottish TUC general secretary, has turned down the offer of a seat on the board of the drinks giant Guinness.

He had previously agreed to join as a non-executive director, but the move prompted a row within the General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union, the main union for the whisky industry. Mr Christie said: "This was an imaginative initiative by the company but, in view of the opposition from the representatives of key elements of the workforce, it is impossible for me to serve on the board."

Singapore and
Swissair in swap

Singapore Airlines and Swissair are swapping shares as part of an alliance formed between them and Delta Airlines last December. The equity swap will give Swissair 0.62 per cent of Singapore, which will own 2.77 per cent of the Swiss airline.

The latest swap deal completes the triangular purchase of equity among the three alliance partners.

Dutton to merge
with Graham

Two City law firms, Lawrence Graham and Blyth Dutton, are expected to announce a merger later today. Blyth Dutton has worked on corporate takeovers and Lawrence Graham specialises in commercial property, shipping and international corporate work.

THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK
US dollar 1.9425 (-0.0250)
W German mark 2.9102 (-0.0125)
Exchange index 94.0 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1882.8 (-29.4)
FT-SE 100 2149.4 (-21.1)
New York Dow Jones 2559.65 (+32.42)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 22454.63 (-945.65)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.58	2.43
Austria S	21.65	20.15
Belgium F	33.10	32.10
Canada \$	2.35	2.25
Denmark Kr	11.57	10.97
Finland Mk	7.35	6.90
France F	10.23	9.63
Germany Dm	3.04	2.85
Greece Dr	191.75	185.00
Hong Kong \$	15.65	14.25
Ireland Pt	1.145	1.075
Italy Lira	273.5	257.5
Japan Yen	342	325
Netherlands Gld	1.87	1.77
Norway Kr	267.50	251.50
Norway Ekr	5.30	4.95
South Africa Rd	179.75	173.75
Spain Ptas	11.36	10.72
Sweden Kr	2.44	2.34
Switzerland Fr	2.60	2.50
Turkey Lira	2.02	1.92
USA \$	2.02	1.92
Yugoslavia Dnr	26.00	21.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.3 (October)

Bankers agree
independence
for Eurofed

From MICHAEL BINYON IN MILAN

CENTRAL bankers from the European Community yesterday presented Community finance ministers with the draft statutes of a European central bank that would manage a new single currency much as the Bundesbank now manages the mark.

The confidential document, agreed by all central bankers last week, insists that Eurofed, as the new system has been dubbed, must be completely independent of the 12 Community governments and any other body.

The document also insists that all national central banks and members of their decision-making bodies cut their political dependence on governments, and function independently.

This is a clear victory for Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank.

"The Community and each member state undertake to respect this principle and not to seek to influence the European Central Bank, the national central banks and the members of their decision-making bodies in the performance of their tasks," the statute says.

The bank has three objectives: to maintain price stability, to support the Community's general economic policy and to act consistently with free and competitive markets. The statute defines Eurofed's main tasks as follows:

- to formulate and implement the EC's monetary policy;
- to conduct foreign exchange operations in accordance with the prevailing exchange rate regime of the Community;
- to hold and manage the official foreign reserves of the participating countries;
- to ensure the smooth operation of payment systems;
- to participate as necessary in the formulation, co-ordination and execution of policies relating to prudential supervision and the stability of the financial system.

Eurofed must be consulted on any draft Community legislation and any international agreements envisaged in the monetary, prudential, banking or financial field. National governments must also consult it on any

proposed legislation falling within its competence.

The bank will be governed by a council and an executive board. The council, comprising a president, vice-president and other members of the board and governors of the national banks, will take decisions by simple majority, with the president having a casting vote. It will meet at least ten times a year, and its proceedings must be secret.

The executive board, a full-time body, will comprise a president, vice-president and four other members of recognised professional expertise. The president and vice-president will be appointed for a period of eight years by the EC leaders meeting at their summits, and after consultation with the European Parliament. A member can only be sacked by the European Court of Justice on grounds of serious misconduct.

The council's duty will be "to formulate the monetary policy of the Community including, as appropriate, decisions relating to intermediate monetary objectives, key interest rates and the supply of reserves in the system, and shall establish the necessary guidelines for their implementation".

In implementing the monetary policy laid down by the council, the executive board will give the necessary instructions to national central banks. Both council and executive board meetings will be chaired by the president or vice-president. He will also represent the bank overseas.

All EC member states must ensure that their legislation, including that governing their own central banks, is compatible with the statute. Governors of national central banks can be appointed only after

consultation with Eurofed's Council, and must hold office for not less than five years. A governor cannot be sacked except for personal misconduct.

The Eurofed council will have the exclusive right to issue notes within the EC, and these will be the only ones to have legal tender. Coins will also be put into circulation by the bank, their volume and denomination being determined by the council.

The bank will be entitled to require credit institutions to hold minimum reserves on accounts with it and national central banks. The council will lay down what the minimum reserves should be.

The bank will have overall responsibility for relations with banks and financial institutions in third countries, and international bodies such as the IMF. It will be entitled to acquire and sell spot and forward all types of foreign exchange assets and gold.

In two highly controversial points, still fiercely resisted by Britain, the statute provides for the bank to take over all the assets of each individual country, including its gold reserves up to an amount yet to be defined, and hold and manage them. The bank will also conduct all banking transactions with third countries, including borrowing and lending.

Each national bank will transfer to Eurofed all its foreign reserve assets, other than Community currencies and euros. "The council shall decide upon the proportion to be called up by the European Central Bank at the entry into force of this statute and the amounts called up at later dates."

Each national central bank will be granted with a claim equivalent to its contribution, and the council will determine how such claims are paid. The bank shall accept the pooling of IMF reserve positions and special drawing rights.

The statute still leaves open where the new bank is to be established - a decision that will have to be taken by EC leaders at their summit. The document also insists on professional secrecy of all those who work for Eurofed, even after their terms of office have expired.

Each national bank will transfer to Eurofed all its foreign reserve assets, other than Community currencies and euros. "The council shall decide upon the proportion to be called up by the European Central Bank at the entry into force of this statute and the amounts called up at later dates."



Pöhl: clear victory

Economic View, page 27



Embattled Walker ready
for a tough title fight

By MARTIN BARROW

GEORGE Walker, bloodied but unbowed after securing an eleventh hour reprieve for Brent Walker, is preparing to fight a new battle to retain his dual role as chairman and chief executive of the heavily indebted leisure group.

Bankers, including Standard Chartered, insist that new faces are needed in the boardroom as the company attempts to regain the confidence of the City after the qualified success of a £103 million convertible bond placing, which effectively saved Brent Walker from being put into administration. The company's debts exceed £1.4 billion.

The bankers are likely to veto the appointment of a new finance director, to replace Wilfred Aquilina, and will demand the introduction of new management and accounting systems. But Mr

Walker is unlikely to relinquish the chairmanship quickly, after having personally secured places for most of the bonds, committing £2.2 million of his own money and guaranteeing to buy up to £10.2 million of bonds, at 100p in the pound, from investors who participated in the rescue. A further £27.3 million was placed with Jansons S.A. a trust run for the benefit of Mr Walker's children.

However, the success of his strategy depends on the support of Michael Smurfit, the multi-millionaire who is head of Jefferson Smurfit, the Dublin paper and packaging concern. Mr Smurfit has invested £10 million of his own money and Jefferson Smurfit has provided £15 million.

The bonds are expected to open at a discount when trading begins today. They are convertible at 140p, against

last Friday's closing price of 88p. Full conversion would give Mr Walker and his family 17.1 per cent of the enlarged share capital and Mr Smurfit and his company about 10 per cent.

There is speculation that Jefferson Smurfit plans to acquire a further 10 per cent of Brent Walker in the market, to give investors sympathetic to Mr Walker a total holding of just under 50 per cent, which would further strengthen the former boxer's grip on his dual role. A stake of 30 per cent would enable Jefferson Smurfit to equity account Brent Walker's profits into its own results.

Mr Smurfit believes his firm's financial muscle would enhance the value of Walker's portfolio of property and leisure assets, which is capitalised by the stock market at just £44 million.

Brisk demand for
power shares

By MARTIN WALLER

MORE than 600,000 applications for the £5.2 billion privatisation of the electricity distribution companies in England and Wales are due by 10am on Wednesday. Today *The Times* publishes its selection of the shares investors who wish to apply for shares should consider.

Completed application forms, accompanied by cheques, can be delivered by 3.30pm tomorrow to any British branch of Lloyds, Barclays, NatWest, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank, or by the Wednesday deadline to 21 special receiving centres in the United Kingdom as detailed in the application.

The basis used to allocate shares will be announced on December 10 and dealings in the 12 companies are expected to begin at 2.30pm the following day.

More than 7 million potential investors have registered an interest in the electricity distribution companies.

Advisers expect most applications to be made later than in most government share offers because investors are waiting to see how the Gulf tension develops. Application

BA may gain in
US rule change

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

BRITISH Airways could gain a strategic foothold in the important American domestic airline market if American aviation authorities carry out a plan to relax their rules on foreign ownership.

Rocketing costs and dwindling passengers are forcing American airlines to seek fresh cash. The plan to consider scrapping the 25 per cent limit imposed on a foreign



Skinner: two days of talks

carrier of a domestic airline emerged after two days of talks between airline executives and Samuel Skinner, the American transport secretary, during which he was given a long list of woes.

Analysts say the 25 per cent rule was partly responsible for the collapse of last year's employee bid for United Airlines. The rules cast doubt on whether the authorities would have allowed British Airways to put in 75 per cent of the \$1 billion equity portion of the deal even though they would have only 15 per cent of the total votes.

But since the August invasion of Kuwait, the soaring cost of jet fuel - now accounting for between 20 and 30 per cent of an airline's cost - has sent the industry into a nose dive. Airline Economics, an independent Washington consulting firm, said the industry will stage a near \$3 billion turnaround to losses this year.

Blockbuster payouts at MCA

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WHATEVER the public may think, Japanese takeovers are good for Hollywood, financially. For executives of MCA, the entertainment company, the agreed takeover by Matsushita will pay out far more than they ever made from *Jaws* and *ET*.

As part of the terms of the \$6.6 billion takeover, the Japanese electronics firm is paying two banks, one law firm and 12 MCA executives almost \$580 million in fees, new contracts and pay.

The lion's share will go to Lew Wasserman, aged 77, the MCA chairman, who gets a total of \$342 million in shares and a five year contract for \$3 million a year to head the film, television, record and theme park group.

will get almost \$155 million, about \$21 million of which will be paid up front as an incentive to continue running the company. He will get \$91 million for his shares and sign a five year contract that lifts his annual salary from \$900,000 to \$8.6 million.

Tom Pollock, the chairman of Universal Pictures, the film making division, will receive \$26.6 million for his MCA shares and options and will be one of the ten MCA executives sharing a package of new contracts worth \$23 million.

According to documents lodged with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Lazard Freres, the New York investment bank, will collect \$16.75 million for acting on behalf of MCA, and

will receive \$8 million for its advice to Matsushita. Akira, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, the Washington law firm, will receive \$8 million. Robert Strauss, one of its partners, is also a director of MCA. But the documents do not disclose what fee may have been paid to Michael Ovitz, the chairman of Creative Artists, Los Angeles' most powerful talent agency, and the man credited with bringing Matsushita and MCA together. Hollywood sources believe the payout is close to \$40 million.

Matsushita approached him as part of its search for a film studio last autumn, just as the ink was drying on the \$5 billion deal made by Sony Corporation, Matsushita's Japanese rival, to buy and

Germany
looks to
City for
selloffs

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

THE German government is expected to launch an aggressive privatisation programme that almost certainly will involve Lufthansa and Telekom, the state-owned telecommunications monopoly.

With yesterday's election out of the way, the government will finally need to confront the soaring cost of German unity, which will see the budget deficit rising from a DM100 billion this year to at least DM150 billion in 1991. These prospects are putting pressure on Theo Waigel, the finance minister, to find alternative ways of raising funds.

Numerous merchant banks in the City of London are known to be in talks with the German finance ministry on a variety of potential privatisation projects. In 1991, the German government expects federal asset sales to amount to about DM10 billion, although this figure could double if state and local governments took similar action.

British merchant banks might be among the largest beneficiaries of a German privatisation drive. One expert, who refused to be identified, said that on the basis of revenues next year of DM10 billion, the least the City can expect in fees is DM100 million, but this would rise significantly if City banks could participate in the underwriting. The total value of public assets is estimated to be about DM370 billion.

It is understood that one merchant bank was approached this July in respect of the possibility of a public listing of a large state-owned airline, which almost certainly would point to Lufthansa, in which the federal government has a 52 per cent stake.

Helmuth Kohl, the German chancellor, has ruled out direct income tax increases, although it is believed other taxes, including value-added taxes might go up, or specific taxes be introduced, perhaps an environment tax, to help clean up eastern Germany's polluted industrial zones.

The two companies most likely to be privatised are Lufthansa and Telekom. It is unlikely that Telekom can be privatised in the manner that British Telecom was floated, because such a decision would require a two-thirds majority in the Bundestag. This is most unlikely because of the opposition of the Social Democrats to such a move.

The facts on
foreign currency
mortgages.

Or how to
get from "ERM"
to "AHA!"

Foreign currency mortgages have attracted more than a little attention since ERM entry. But the debate has generated as much heat as light. Are the potential savings worth the risks? Should you think of them as a way to lower your repayments, or to cut your borrowings? Most important of all, who should - and who shouldn't - consider them?

At John Charcol, we arranged our first foreign currency mortgage in 1988, and since then we've become the undisputed market leader.

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Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it. The sterling equivalent of your liability under a foreign currency mortgage may be increased by exchange rate movements.

UK firms lead field in Europe under new survey method

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH companies are outperforming their European competitors, according to a survey that uses a new method to calculate general corporate performance.

When the top 50 companies across Europe are ranked by turnover, Germany shows the best results, with turnover of £208 billion, compared with the United Kingdom in second place at £167 billion. Of the top 400 industrial companies, 120 are British, 79 are French and 71 are German.

The survey, published today in the Institute of Directors' *Director* magazine, uses a method called the RSW formula, that looks at performance, profitability, growth and company strength to examine how companies are doing. The institute says this formula, developed by Professor Reinhard Schmidt of Kiel University, allows proper comparisons between companies across different sectors.

The RSW formula – the initials come from the German for profitability, safety and growth – sees British companies outperforming all others in Europe, including companies in Germany, which is ranked third. While only ten of the top 50 companies ranked by turnover are British, 27 are when ranked by RSW rating. Glaxo and Reuters lead the

EUROPEAN INDUSTRY - TOP COUNTRIES Leading 50 European companies

Turnover*	RSW performance†
1 Germany 20.5	1 UK 54.4
2 UK 24.4	2 France 9.7
3 France 15.0	3 Germany 8.0
4 Netherlands 9.9	4 Sweden 8.0
5 Italy 8.2	5 Switzerland 4.9
6 Sweden 4.8	6 Spain 4.8
7 Switzerland 4.0	7 Netherlands 4.3
8 Belgium 1.5	8 Ireland 2.5
9 Spain 1.0	9 Belgium 2.5
10 Norway 0.9	10 Norway 2.5

* % of total aggregate turnover. † % of total aggregate RSW score. Source: IOD

field under the RSW method, with Williams Holdings, Cable and Wireless, BT and Manpower in the top ten. Pearson, Hanson, United Newspapers and RTZ are in the top 20.

By sector, the RSW formula shows British companies accounting for four of the top five in chemicals, seven out of ten in property and construction, five in the top six of technology and telecommunications and two of the top three in paper, print and publishing.

The ratings are drawn from published balance-sheet figures over the past five years. Because the return on equity has been computed before tax, the study concludes that the relative performance of British companies would rise even further against those in Germany were tax to be deducted. Professor Schmidt says British companies perform better than those in Germany under this measure because of their traditional orientation towards the stock market, because Germany has a number of smaller- and medium-sized companies and because among large companies, Germany has a small number of very big firms.

He said: "There is evidence that German companies have simply lost their dynamism – the relatively small number of diversified companies is a sign of this."

Peter Morgan, IOD director general, welcomed the findings, which he said were "a tribute to the enterprise and strength of British industry."

Andy Simmons, principal technical manager at Touche Ross, said that it was unusual to see such emphasis placed on a ratio using balance sheet data as a denominator.



Miller leads urban renewal

JAMES Miller, (above) chairman of Edinburgh's Miller Group, one of the largest privately owned construction businesses in Britain, inspects progress at Ferguslie Park, Paisley, one of four areas in Scotland nominated for urban regeneration (writes Martin Barrow).

Up to 400 homes are being built on the estate, which is being redeveloped at a cost of £20 million by Miller Homes Urban, a division of the Miller Group, and Bellway Urban Renewals. Miller has secured urban regeneration work with a total value of £65 million this year, including developments in Moorfoot estate, Paisley, and in Glasgow. The group is finalising negotiations for a £4.5 million joint venture in Clydebank.

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GILT-EDGED

Why recession is necessary for UK markets to shine

The financial markets have greeted the change of government leadership with enthusiasm. This is especially evident in the gilt-edged market, where yields have fallen to their lowest since February 1990. However, to say the rally in prices was attributable solely to a lifting of political uncertainty would be inaccurate. Certainly, it has been of great importance but the significance lies in the opportunity given to investors to react to the growing evidence that Britain has finally entered a recessionary phase.

Declining activity, its contribution towards reducing inflationary pressures in the economy and the strain it places upon the profitability of the corporate sector, will tend to favour investment in fixed interest securities.

This has been borne out in the past. Nevertheless, as a general observation, the best bond market performances have been registered when the economy is moving out of its downturn.

While bonds seem logical when one considers that the recovery in the productivity cycle will be at its most potent for generating optimism over the prospects for underlying inflation. In addition, it is generally a period when public sector finances start to benefit from rising revenues and declining pressures on social security payments. In short, it is a time when, from the optimists' view, nothing can possibly go wrong.

While financial markets have an uneasy knack of confounding forecasts based upon past observations, the present stage of the economic cycle would suggest that, although slightly premature, a rally was justifiable on economic grounds.

But what the forecast for the growth in 1991 indicates is that the downturn in activity will not be sharp enough to ensure a performance of epic proportions. There are several other considerations that tend to support this view. The market is faced with a deterioration in the balance between supply and demand. On the demand side, the build-up in the short-term asset holdings of the long-term investing institutions in the past nine months has been strong enough to suggest that purchases of gilts could remain strong. But on

the supply side, the deterioration in public sector finances promises to trigger a wave of government bond issues in the year ahead.

Additionally, yields will need to continue to provide investors with a substantial risk premium. The danger of significant shocks to the system next year are large, the Gulf tensions being the most obvious example. But the approach of the general election and the likelihood that the government's present popularity will dwindle, especially if the problems associated with the poll tax are not cleared up by the spring, will leave investors relatively nervous.

I also has to be remembered that Britain's markets do not exist in a vacuum. Domestic investors will be viewing UK yields in the light of relative movements internationally. Sterling's entry to the ERM has reduced the currency risks associated with investment in other key European financial markets.

While bonds are generally expected to post positive gains in the next six months, the international background suggests that these will not be spectacular. Consequently, falls in British yields will be limited by the switching of funds into alternative markets when these offer the prospect of a better performance, even if this is only over a comparatively short time horizon.

For the sterling markets to convincingly outperform, we would need to see a much deeper and longer recession and the certainty that inflation would quickly plunge to French/German levels and stay there. This seems unlikely.

In the near future, the gilt market is likely to be carried forward on the new wave of optimism in evidence this last fortnight. While some modest fall in long dated yields from present levels can still be justified on fundamental grounds, a spectacular performance cannot. But, as ever, the pendulum of market fortunes will swing too far. Prices will come to discount too much good news. It is the canny investor who will decide when the best of the game is over, a decision that cannot be too far off.

CHRIS ANTHONY
UBS Phillips & Drew

New rules to allow dealing by US banks

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

The American government is poised to allow commercial banks to go into the share dealing business from which they have been banned for almost 60 years. New legislation will be drawn up next month.

Nicholas Brady, the Treasury secretary, promised the Securities Industry Association a sweeping reorganisation of commercial banks and securities houses, which will dismantle the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act barring commercial banks from investment banking.

The proposal comes as a record 200 banks failed last year and Wall Street has been described as cutting itself to the bone to make ends meet. Mr Brady said the Bush administration was responding to the declining profits in the banking and securities industries and their difficulties competing with foreign firms. The move is widely interpreted as part of a broader reform that will increase sharply the level of bank contributions to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The FDIC, which guarantees each account of depositors' money up to \$100,000, is running out of cash.

Banks pay 12 cents for every \$100 insured. In January, they will pay 19.5 cents, but the Treasury want that figure lifted to between 30 cents and \$1.

Too strong pound in ERM 'may lift taxes'

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE government could be forced to increase taxes in the next Budget, if the pound strengthens too much within the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) of the European monetary system. Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser to Lloyd's Bank, writes in the bank's latest bulletin.

He argues that if, on the one hand, ERM constraints require keeping the base rate at 14 per cent, or higher, there would be a case for allowing the Budget to move into deficit, or even easing taxation.

"If, on the other hand, UK base rates need to be cut to stop the pound rising too far within the ERM, then there will be an argument for raising taxes next March, to keep up the pressure against inflation."

Mr Johnson foresees a return to Budget deficits next year, as public expenditure rises faster than tax revenue. With rising unemployment pushing up social security spending, public expenditure as a proportion of the gross domestic product could at best be held at 39.5 per cent. If the recession is deeper than the Treasury expects, the proportion would rise, he says.

The bulletin notes that the Chancellor's scope for moving the base rate depends on what happens to German interest rates and what risk premium foreign exchange markets require to hold sterling rather than marks.

Sick pay bill opposed

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE National Chamber of Trade is claiming that the government's reforms of employers' sick pay provision will be a "death blow" to small businesses.

The body is protesting about the statutory sick pay bill, which went through its third reading in the Commons last week. The bill reduces the amount of statutory sick pay employers can recover from the full amount to 80 per cent of the total and gives the

percentage by order in future.

□ The Apparel Knitting and Textiles Alliance today calls on the government to reject any weakening of the multi-fibre arrangement at the opening of the final stage of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks.

□ The recession is hitting consumer spending on cosmetics and toiletries in Britain, a report published today by Euromonitor, the

هكذا من الأصل

John Major is about to get another offer he can't refuse. As anyone who saw *The Godfather* will remember, this means an offer that is extremely tempting but also unpalatable for sentimental reasons. In the end, there is no choice since the alternative to acceptance is a sticky death. But for the upwardly mobile gangster, there is also a positive side to any "offer you can't refuse". It opens up exciting vistas for personal advancement and it finally removes a crushing burden of moral indecision.

Mr Major must surely have felt something like this two weeks ago, when he reluctantly agreed to play the part of Brutus to Margaret Thatcher's Caesar. He will go through another emotionally wrenching experience of this kind next week at the European summit in Rome.

What Mr Major will be offered in Rome is now fairly clear. Britain will be given an option to participate in European monetary union (Emu) if and when it is willing to do so. In no sense will a common currency or independent central bank be

"imposed" on an unwilling parliament. If Britain chooses to stay out of Emu or to postpone a full commitment, it will be able to opt instead for a temporary associate membership of this particular sub-group of the European club.

In Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt and Bonn, it is now taken for granted that different countries will move towards the ultimate objective of a common currency at different speeds, although there are some crucial differences of nuance.

The Eurocrats in Brussels bristle at any mention of a "two-speed" approach to Emu, preferring instead to speak of "managing diversity" and "variable geometry". There are plenty of precedents, they note. The European Monetary System (EMS) still excludes two Community members and the participants are split into two sub-groups: capital controls are being abolished at different speeds;

An Emu we can't refuse

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

even the free movement of labour and the creation of a common market in agricultural products is being achieved in a phased manner. So why not monetary union?

The Germans are openly enthusiastic about the multi-speed idea. They believe that a link to the mark is no substitute for the tough fiscal, credit and labour market measures required to combat domestic inflation in such countries as Italy, Spain and Britain. They believe premature moves towards Emu might distract these countries from confronting their domestic problems. At worst, they fear monetary union could lead to the inflationary contagion spreading from the periphery of Europe to

Germany itself. A multi-speed union, on the other hand, would have numerous advantages in the Germans' eyes.

If Emu is to happen at all, the Germans would like to accelerate it, rather than slow it down. The Bundesbank fears that the lengthy transition periods agreed at the last European summit in October would only create uncertainty about the long-term stability of monetary policy. As long as the new central bank to be established in 1994 was merely a talking shop devoted to "co-ordination" of national monetary policies, it would serve only as a device for spreading inflationary policies through political "peer pressure", the Germans believe. The French, too, are eager for

the fastest possible progress towards a formal monetary union, since they are at present following a monetary policy dictated by Frankfurt without enjoying even a symbolic influence on the way that policy is made. France and the Benelux countries would therefore far prefer to be the pioneers of Emu than have to wait for Britain, Spain and Italy, not to mention Portugal and Greece.

It seems, therefore, that Mr Major will have three negotiating options at the Rome summit. First, he could decide to back a multi-speed Emu with the proviso that all countries, including the laggards such as Britain, should play a full part in negotiating the institutional arrangements and the rules for eventual admission. Alternatively, he could try to insist on a pan-European union, achieved simultaneously by all countries. This would allow Britain to ally itself with Italy and Spain, but it

would be plausible only if backed by quasi-federalist political arguments. Finally, of course, the prime minister could remain in a minority of one and boycott the whole process.

Given the alternatives, a multi-speed Emu looks like an offer that Mr Major can't refuse. Politically, it could even be quite attractive. It would leave the final decision on entry to be made by parliament at some point in the indefinite future. Thus Mr Major could claim that he had achieved his main objective of stopping a single currency being "imposed" on Britain.

Of course, a two-speed monetary union would undercut the psychological impact of Britain's ERM commitment. In fact, the present ERM would probably begin to dissolve as its core members moved towards full union. But markets and wage bargainers have not been impressed by ERM entry anyway. And as the ERM faded away, Mr Major would win back some of the monetary freedom that he was so rash as to give up just before a general election.

BY ALL that is decent, they ought to come out of the traps at the same speed. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, and his advisers have had three opportunities to handicap the 12 electricity distributors in England and Wales and so ensure they represent equal opportunities to the investor.

The first handicap went on in March, when the government announced the "X" factors. Part of the complex regulatory mechanism governing the privatised industry, these set the pace of future price rises. This allows the more disadvantaged, industrially-biased companies to pull in more revenue than their equivalents which, to a greater extent, serve the domestic consumer and are seen as less likely to suffer in the more competitive post-privatisation environment.

The second came in July, with almost £2 billion of debt loaded on to the 12. Those seen as most in need of help were left with the least borrowings. The third handicap was the differing yields on which the 12 are floated — from 8.03 per cent to a percentage point higher — again benefiting the industrial companies. Advisers by then had the advantage of feedback from the City. That should have identified which companies needed the greatest advantages.

In much of this they have repeated the trick played with water, so it is worth pointing out that while the package of ten water company shares is, a year later, at a near-50 per cent premium to the part-paid price, the pack has spread out so that the leading share, Welsh Water, is 24 per cent ahead of the laggard, Severn Trent. The FT-SE index, however, is about 9 per cent lower than when water first traded.

None the less, the 12 distributors should now be equally heavily weighted on route to the market, and the spread in premiums is unlikely to be much more than 5 per cent. For the long-term retail investor, the Franks who featured in the advertising campaign, the first choice should be easy; given the incentives on offer, they should apply for as many shares as they can afford in their local company. Whether they apply for more, on the assumption that applications will be scaled back, is a matter of personal taste and

Power: as near risk-free as shares will ever be



Handicaps offer an even chance: John Wakeham

their willingness to take risks, but in areas such as Eastern London, SEBOARD and Southern, heavy retail demand and some scaling back looks almost certain.

For the stage, the position is a little more difficult. The institutions will have to make do with a package of all 12 shares, and will thus be casting around in the after-market to adjust their portfolios in favour of those they prefer.

Although advisers to the float deny it strongly, the popularity of privatisation issues varies wildly in different parts of the country. Those parts where punters are least likely to apply are, not entirely coincidentally, the regions where electricity companies offer the highest yields, because they are highly industrialised areas of relatively low prosperity.

In addition, advisers have had to take into account the fact that fewer people in those areas will be applying for their local board in setting the yields needed to launch the company's flotation safely.

This means the companies with the highest yields — Northern, Manweb and South Wales — ought to have the most stock available to non-customers. The feeling in the City that those yields have had to be set at a disproportionately high level, along with considerable respect for their management, has made the last two favourites among analysts advising institutions on what shares to add to their portfolios in the after-market.

This should make the stage job easier. Those shares must go to the best premium in the after-market, with Yorkshire, a third, mainly industrial board,

and another City favourite. But experience of the water float suggests things may not be so simple. The problem is scaling back. In the so-called "Northumbrian effect", investors applied for the apparently-unpopular water boards in droves and were disappointed. Had they avoided the City favourites and gone for the middle-rankers, they might have foregone a couple of pence of their premiums but they would have received proportionately more shares on which to take a profit.

Stags looking for a quick return, therefore, should consider spreading the risk, especially if they are investing a relatively large amount. In the water sell-off, applications for more than 1,000 shares in Northumbrian received 200, the same as those who applied for just 500.

A wiser course, therefore, might be to split one's money between as many electricity companies as one can safely afford, applying for no more than 500 to 1,000 shares in each, if one intends to apply for that many. In addition to the three favourites — South Wales, Manweb and Yorkshire — try Midlands, seen as the safest of the 12, and Northern.

Long-term holders should go for their own board. Those wanting more than one should go for quality. East Midlands is impressive, although its keenness to move into generation could go wrong in the long run. Southern has good demographics, Manweb, South Wales and Yorkshire have good management and those attractive yields.

Two caveats, alas. A Labour election victory would strip the companies of their dividend income from the National Grid, which would severely limit future dividend growth. There is also the Gulf. Despite continuing peace-keeping efforts, war is a possibility. A consequent market collapse before dealings start on December 11 would see the float withdrawn by the City underwriters. War just after that and a market collapse would mean the losses fall on the retail investor, effectively locked in until the share certificates arrive, possibly after the Christmas break.

Remember BP: electricity may be the closest thing yet to a pre-electoral bribe, but nothing on the stock market is certain.

Revolutionary spirit at the ISE

PETER Rawlins promised evolution when he took over as chief executive of the International Stock Exchange a year ago. But to those closely involved, the past 12 months have taken on a distinctly revolutionary flavour.

Fast rising costs have been checked, then vigorously reversed. Spending is under relentless pressure. Some 800 of the exchange's 3,200 employees have gone and overheads have been chopped by £35 million a year.

The ramshackle structure of almost 100 standing committees has been swept away and replaced with just four.

The exchange has been split into three divisions and old central support functions broken into pieces. Where it made business sense these were embedded in the appropriate division. Otherwise, they have been despatched.

Moves which in ISE terms were considered novel, like bringing outside users such as registrars on to the board of the settlement services division, were implemented. Accounting systems have been streamlined.

Rawlins does not seek credit for this year of hyperactivity. For he took over at a time of exceptional ferment in the City in general and the Stock Exchange in particular. Overhaul was in the air and in some areas in the detailed planning stage. But his fresh outsider's perceptions and sometimes bruising



Rawlins: fresh perceptions experienced at Lloyd's, when the London insurance market was going through its own upheaval, have helped accelerate the pace of change.

Rawlins, aged 39, an Oxford educated chartered accountant, tends to understate the nature of the changes. They are, he says, fairly standard business practice. "They don't necessarily make for a better exchange but they do clear away the undergrowth."

But four years after Big Bang transformed the exchange from a trade association for individual members and their partnerships into a business owned by companies, the pressures to rethink and reshape its role are still substantial. They have been heightened by the realisation that expectations of endless milk and honey after deregulation were false. To some sen-

ior City figures the only solution for the huge mismatch between incomes and expenditure are draconian, involving the loss or withdrawal of perhaps a further £750 million of capital employed in the securities industry. More creative thinkers see other directions involving some rationalisation but with a key role to be played by the ISE in driving down costs and expanding the scope of both central London-based markets and new pan-European exchanges.

But around the City there is still much confusion between the interests of individual ISE members and what will best serve the business of share trading in London.

To outsiders, these issues of membership and governance seem almost theological. But in Rawlins' view they are at the heart of ensuring that London retains and builds on its eminence as a centre of securities trading in the European time zone. Meanwhile, in the past year the exchange has achieved a significant number of major and minor objectives along this route.

Taurus, the planned paperless settlement system, is in the first category, costing perhaps 3,000 jobs in City backrooms over the next few years but with overall savings of about £230 million. The project was bogged into immobility by the almost irreconcilable views of a number of ISE working parties and special interest groups. That

deadlock has been broken. Taurus now has unstoppable momentum of its own.

The exchange put its weight behind a merger of its own traded options market and the independent financial futures exchange. This is on course to become Europe's largest derivatives exchange when the merger is effected next year.

The ISE also made its first rule changes to comply with EC directives on listing requirements, collapsing the USM and Third Market into one as part of the process. Other rule changes should greatly improve the secondary trading in newly issued stocks.

After much legal wrangling, the exchange developed the new sanction of a full blown public censure to add to its limited armoury of disapproval for wayward companies and used it with effect against Polly Peck, Bremner and Tottenham Hotspur.

The exchange's high tech investigations team won DTI approval to prosecute its own insider trading cases and won guilty pleas on its first outing in court.

The regulatory news service which starts today, the Eurotrak Index and initiatives to promote an EC-wide professional cross border market based on SEAC International provide more evidence of a year when the ISE stepped up several gears.

JOHN BELL
City Editor

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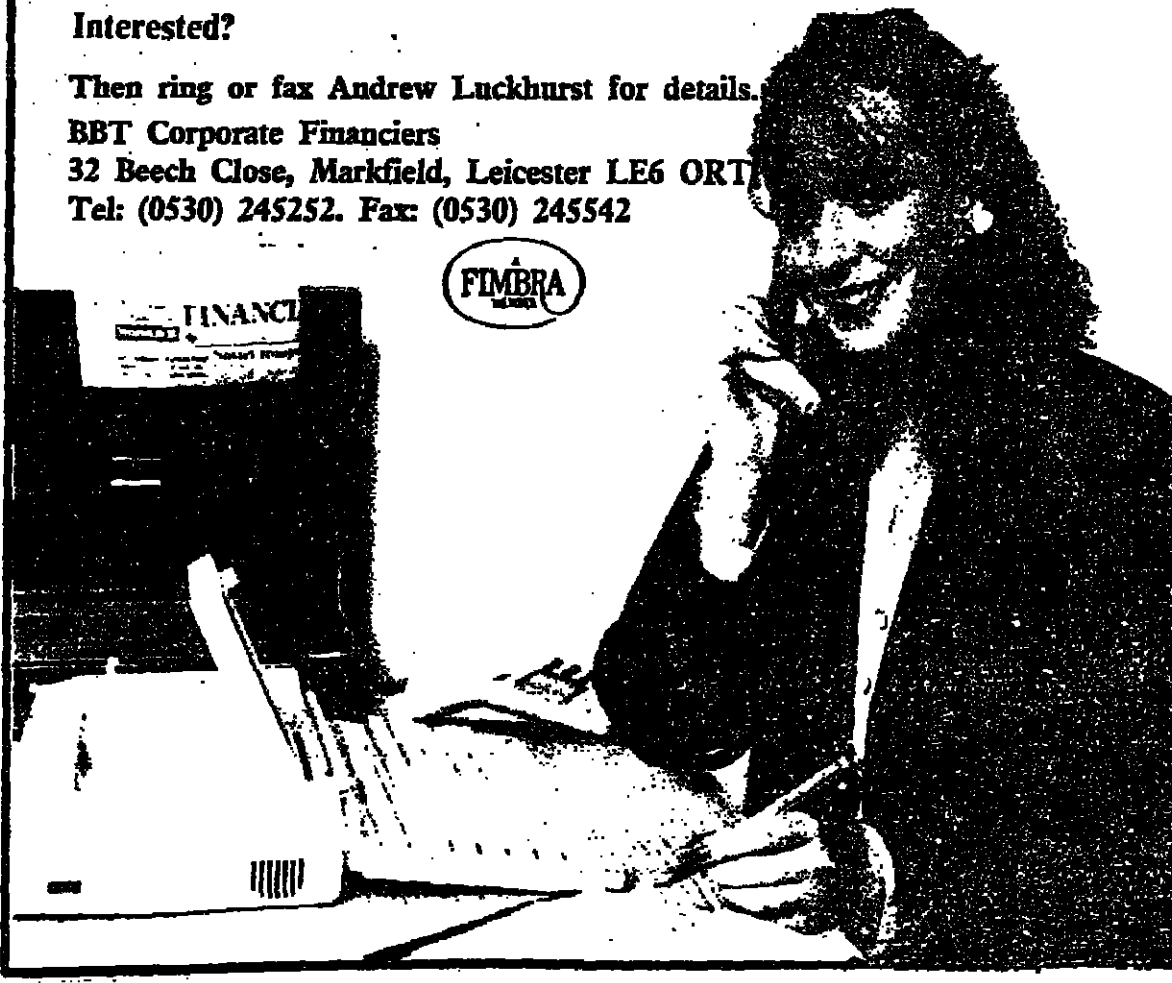
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pearce to leave SNC

CHRIS Pearce, one of the City's most versatile all-rounders, is leaving Smith New Court after 19 years. Pearce, a director of Smith New Court Securities and a key member of the corporate finance department, is leaving to specialise in merger and acquisitions work. "I will be doing my own thing but there is scope for a joint venture," says Pearce, aged 37. He began working in the back office of Scott Goff, the institutional broker, in 1972, and went on to become joint head of equity sales. After Scott Goff merged with Smith Brothers in 1986, Pearce helped structure the new corporate finance department. "I decided it was time to move away from traditional corporate broking. It is a question of creating ideas and taking them to companies." Pearce is also known for his work with The Harriet Foundation, named in memory of his daughter, which raises funds to help care for children at home.

Bubbling up

WHAT have Lord Alexander, the National Westminster chairman, Christopher Heath, the Barings star, and Lord

McAlpine, the Tory fundraiser, got in common? All three share a love of Krug champagne. And on Friday there will be an opportunity for other slightly less privileged people to educate their taste buds similarly. Henri Krug, one of the two brothers who run the champagne business, will be renewing old City acquaintances at noon and 5pm when he toasts a tutored tasting at Brewers Hall, Aldermanbury Square, of five different Krug champagnes, including the 1969 vintage, which sells at £175 a bottle, and the rarer Clos du Mesnil 1982, which sells for £150 a bottle. The tasting is being



"I hear we have a rights issue problem"

offered exclusively to readers of *The Times City Diary* and numbers are limited. A fee of £25 per head is to be donated to the Anastasia Trust for the Deaf. Contact David Russell on (071) 834 2151 to make reservations.

GRAFFITO on a Hampstead hoarding: "Don't blow it — good planets are hard to find. I know."

Viewing business

STEPHEN Lewis and Roger Nightingale aim to boost their City ratings with the launch on Sky News tonight of *European Business Today*, a daily financial programme. They will join Gavin Davies of Goldman Sachs, Anthony Thomas of Kleinwort Benson, and other regulars on the show, which will be shown at 10.30pm on the newly merged BSkyB satellite channel. "We will continue running three major stories a day," says Brian Milton, the programme editor and co-presenter who hit the headlines in 1987 when he flew from Britain to Australia by Microflight aircraft. The 25 minute programme has proved popular in Tokyo, where traders can learn of European developments before their markets open. "We always have a section on Eastern Europe," says Milton, a former BBC reporter, who

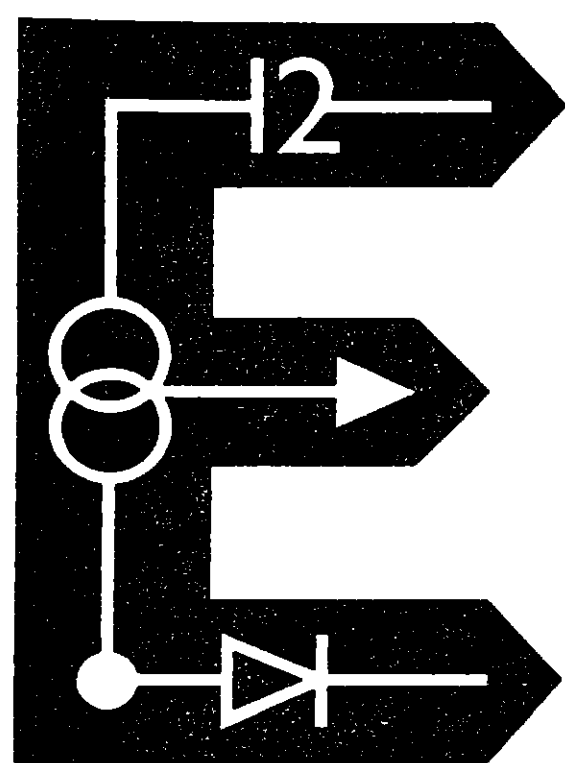
founded and presented *Money Matters* for TV-am.

SEASONAL greeting in a San Francisco restaurant window: "Pizza on Earth."

Soft soap

CHRISTMAS, as Britain's struggling retailers know only too well, can make all the difference to the next set of report and accounts. So it is a little surprising to see Anita Roddick's Body Shop adopting a contrary view of the festive season. Body Shop stores are distributing goods in little green bags, made from recycled paper, and emblazoned with a list of dos and don'ts to help the green movement. "The festive season is synonymous with excess, extravagance and wild consumer spending," it says — even though most Body Shop stores seem well prepared for this type of excess. Father Christmas is dismissed as "a corpulent old braggart," and the last British reindeer, customers are told, died in Scotland in the tenth century. In keeping with the theme, perhaps it would be better to leave Body Shop soaps and perfumes out of Christmas stockings this year. That way, at least, customers would not be out of step with the world.

JON ASHWORTH



The Regional Electricity Companies Share Offers

Eastern Electricity plc East Midlands Electricity plc London Electricity plc Manweb plc
Midlands Electricity plc Northern Electric plc NORWEB plc SEEBOARD plc Southern Electric plc
South Wales Electricity plc South Western Electricity plc Yorkshire Electricity Group plc

Offers for Sale

by
Kleinwort Benson Limited

on behalf of The Secretary of State for Energy

HM Government is now offering for sale 100 per cent. of the ordinary share capital of each of the 12 Regional Electricity Companies of England and Wales.
The offer price of 240p per share is payable in instalments of 100p now, 70p on 22nd October 1991 and 70p on 15th September 1992.

This advertisement contains the terms and conditions of application, a guide to completing the public application form and the public application form. This advertisement does not contain any information about the Regional Electricity Companies ("RECs"). It should therefore be read in conjunction with the full Prospectus dated 21st November 1990 which alone contains approved listing particulars relating to each REC. Copies of the full Prospectus may be obtained, until the Offers for Sale close, from most clearing bank branches and post offices. In applying for shares in any REC you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information in the relevant Sections of the full Prospectus and on the terms and conditions set out below. Expressions defined in the full Prospectus have the same meaning in this advertisement. Before deciding to apply for shares you should consider carefully whether shares are a suitable investment for you. Their value can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult a stockbroker, solicitor, accountant, bank manager or other professional adviser. The Council of The Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this advertisement under Section 154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986 without approving its contents.

SHARE OFFERS AND APPLICATION AND INSTALMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Share offers

The number of shares being offered in each company in the United Kingdom and overseas is:

Eastern	269,875,000	NORWEB	172,720,000
East Midlands	218,059,000	SEEBOARD	127,381,000
London	218,059,000	Southern	269,875,000
Manweb	118,745,000	South Wales	101,473,000
Midlands	209,423,000	SWEB	123,063,000
Northern	123,063,000	Yorkshire	207,264,000

(b) Applications

Applications must be received no later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th December 1990. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Once made, applications may not be withdrawn.

(c) No multiple applications

ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON FOR SHARES IN ANY SINGLE REC. The only exceptions to this rule are Permitted Employee Applications (as defined in the Prospectus) which may be made by eligible employees of the RECs, NGC and EASL.

Multiple applications and suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected.

Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one application for shares in any single REC, for their own benefit, or that of any other person, either solely or jointly with other persons. Under the terms and conditions, an applicant can be required to disclose to the Secretary of State or his agents any information about the application which may be requested.

(d) Allocations

The basis of allocation of the shares in each REC is expected to be announced by 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 10th December 1990. If your application for shares in any REC is successful in whole or in part, you will be sent an interim certificate for the shares allocated to you in that REC. If there is heavy demand for the shares in any particular REC, you may receive fewer shares than you apply for in that REC or, in some cases, none at all.

If your application is not accepted, all money paid will be returned (without interest). If your application is accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid.

(e) Dealings

Interim certificates are expected to be despatched to successful applicants on or before Wednesday, 19th December 1990. However, dealings are expected to commence in London at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th December 1990. Applicants who wish to sell before they

have received an interim certificate will only be able to do so if they make arrangements to deal on this basis. Applicants who deal before receipt of an interim certificate will do so at the risk of selling shares for which they have not received an allocation.

(f) Further instalments

You will be sent reminders in advance of the dates when the second and final instalments become payable. The reminders will be sent to your address on the relevant register at the time. If you do not pay any instalments for which you are liable, your right to the shares may be cancelled. If you sell your shares, the purchaser will become liable for any further instalments due (once the transfer has been registered).

(g) Overseas applicants

No person receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form in any territory other than the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such application form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention by any person of any registration or other regulatory or legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the United Kingdom receiving a copy of this advertisement and/or an application form and wishing to make an application to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of requisite governmental or other consents or the observance of any other requisite formalities and the payment of any issue, transfer or other taxes due in such territory.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

If you apply for shares in a Regional Electricity Company ("REC") you will be agreeing with the Secretary of State for Energy, Kleinwort Benson Limited, Lloyds Bank Plc, Barclays Bank Plc, National Westminster Bank Plc, The Royal Trust Company and that REC (the "Company") as set out below. If you apply for shares in more than one REC your application for shares in each REC will be treated as a separate and independent application.

Offer to purchase shares

- You offer to purchase from the Secretary of State at the Offer Price the number of shares indicated in your application (or any smaller number in respect of which your application is accepted) in the Company on these terms and conditions.
- You agree that your offer cannot be revoked prior to 12th January 1991 and promise that the cheque or draft accompanying your application will be honoured on first presentation. The Secretary of State agrees that he will not, prior to 12th January 1991, offer any of the shares in the Company to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus. If you are an eligible customer you will be entitled to customer preference on the basis described in Part I of Chapter VI of Section 1 of the Prospectus. This paragraph constitutes a collateral contract between you and the Secretary of State. It becomes binding when your application is posted to, or (if delivered) is received by, a receiving bank.
- If your application form is not completed correctly, or if the accompanying cheque or draft is for the wrong amount, it may still be treated as valid. In these circumstances the Secretary of State's (or his agent's) decision as to whether to treat your application as valid, and how to construe, amend or complete it, shall be final. You will not, however, be treated as having offered to purchase more shares in the Company than is indicated in your application for shares in the Company.
- Any application may be rejected in whole or in part.

Acceptance of your offer to purchase shares

- The Secretary of State may accept your offer to purchase (if your application is received, valid, processed and not rejected) either (a) by notifying The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case the acceptance will be on that basis) or (b) by notifying acceptance to the receiving bank which processed your application. The acceptance may be of the whole or any part of your offer and, accordingly, the number of shares in the Company you offer to purchase may be scaled down.
- If the Secretary of State accepts your offer to purchase (in whole or in part) there will be a binding contract under which you will be required to purchase the shares in respect of which your offer has been accepted. If, prior to 12th January 1991, both (a) the shares in the Company which are the subject of the Combined Offers are admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange and (b) the UK Underwriting Agreement referred to in Part 9 of Chapter V of Section I of the Prospectus is not terminated, and the underwriting obligation under that Agreement becomes unconditional, in respect of the shares in the Company.
- You will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance. This does not affect any other rights you may have.

Payment for the shares

- You undertake to pay the purchase price for the shares in the Company in respect of which your offer is accepted in three instalments as described in the Prospectus. The cheque or draft accompanying your application may be presented for payment before acceptance of your offer, but this will not constitute acceptance of your offer either in whole or in part. The proceeds of this presentation will be held pending acceptance and, if your offer is accepted, will be applied in discharging the first instalment, which is due upon acceptance. The second instalment is due on 22nd October 1991 and the third instalment is due on 15th September 1992 (and, in each case, for value by 3.00 p.m. on that date). Following payment in full of the purchase price the Secretary of State will arrange for the shares which you have agreed to purchase to be transferred to you. This transfer will not, however, occur before 18th August 1992.
- If your application is invalid, is rejected or is not accepted in full, or if the circumstances described in paragraph 1(a) or (b) do not occur prior to 12th January 1991, any proceeds of the cheque or draft accompanying your application (or, if your application is accepted in part, the unused balance of those proceeds) will be refunded to you without interest.

- The Secretary of State may require you to pay interest or his other resulting costs (or both) if the cheque or draft accompanying your application is not honoured on first presentation. If you are required to pay interest you will pay the amount determined by the Secretary of State or his agents to be the interest on the amount of the cheque or draft from the date of acceptance until the date of receipt of cleared funds. The rate of interest will be the then published bank base rate of a clearing bank selected by the Secretary of State plus 1 per cent. per annum. The Secretary of State may apply part of any payment received from you in paying this interest or other costs. In this event (or if the late payment is for other reasons insufficient) the remainder of the payment will be applied in paying the first instalment in respect of as many shares in the Company as possible. If the payment is in respect of the shares in more than one REC, the Secretary of State may apportion it in any manner between the shares in those RECs. Any balance of the payment remaining will be held by the Secretary of State on your behalf and may be applied in paying any other amounts due to the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State terminates the agreement to purchase shares under paragraph 11 below and no other amounts remain due to the Secretary of State, the remaining balance will be returned to you (without interest).
- At any time until the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of a share the Secretary of State may terminate the agreement to purchase that share. This termination will be effected by notice being despatched to you. In the event of termination you will pay to the Secretary of State, on demand, such amount as may be certified on his behalf as being necessary to compensate the Secretary of State for the losses, costs and expenses incurred or expected to be incurred as a result of the cheque or draft not being honoured on first presentation and as a result of termination (taking into account any amounts paid under paragraph 10 above and any profit gained on the resale of the share).

- If you receive any interim certificate in respect of the shares you have agreed to purchase before the Secretary of State has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of those shares, you shall forthwith return it to the receiving bank from which it was sent.
- Instalment Agreement**
Upon receipt by the Secretary of State in cleared funds of the first instalment in respect of any share for which your offer to purchase has been accepted, you will become a party to, and will be bound by, the Instalment Agreement in respect of that share. Accordingly, from that date you will be entitled to the benefits of rights attached to that share in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement. Until that date the Secretary of State will remain entitled to the benefit of all rights attached to that share. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement in respect of any share, the obligations to pay the second and final instalments in respect of that share, and the obligation to transfer shares to you, contained in paragraph 8 above will be replaced by the corresponding obligations in the Instalment Agreement. If, at the date you become a party to the Instalment Agreement, the second or final instalment (or both) has already fallen due and has not been paid, you will be obliged to pay that or those instalments in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement as if you were a "Purchaser" (as defined in the Instalment Agreement) on the due dates for that or those instalments.

Incentives

- If you are eligible and your offer to purchase shares in the Company is accepted, you will be entitled to receive any incentive in relation to the Company you may have elected to receive in your application. This entitlement is governed by, and you must comply with, the requirements set out, or referred to, in Chapter VI of Section I of the Prospectus.
- Warranties**
You warrant that:-
(i) You are not under 18 years of age on the date of your application.
(ii) You are not, and you are not applying on behalf of, a US or Canadian person (as defined in Part 2 of Chapter VI of Section I of the Prospectus) or an individual, corporation or entity resident in Japan.
(iii) If your application, together with all other applications in which you have an interest, were

accepted in full, neither you, nor any person on whose behalf you are applying, would have an interest (as defined in Article 40 of the Articles of Association of the Company) in shares representing 15 per cent. or more of the issued share capital of the Company.

- In making your application you are relying only on the Prospectus and the Mini Prospectus taken together with the Prospectus and not on any other information or representation concerning the Company or the Combined Offer. You agree that no person responsible for the Prospectus or any part of it will have any liability for any such other information or representation.

- If the laws of any place outside the United Kingdom are applicable to your application, you have complied with all such laws and none of the parties mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions will infringe any laws outside the United Kingdom as a result of the acceptance of your offer to purchase or any actions arising from your rights and obligations under these terms and conditions, the Instalment Agreement and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

- If the person signing the application is not the applicant, that person warrants that he has authority to do so on behalf of the applicant and that that authority is vested in him by virtue of any power of attorney which (for a copy of which) accompanies the application.

Supply and disclosure of information

- The Secretary of State and his agents may have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, the cheque or draft accompanying your application and its processing. If the Secretary of State or his agents request any further information about your application you must promptly disclose it to them. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement your name(s) will be placed on the register of interim rights for the Company and, if you pay your instalments and do not transfer those rights, subsequently on its register of members. These registers are open to inspection by the public, who may take copies in return for a prescribed fee. The information supplied in, or in connection with, your application may also be disclosed to HM Government departments (and their agents) concerned with other privatisation and to members of the police forces for compiling lists of suspected multiple applicants.

No multiple applications

- You warrant that the declarations on your application form are true and correct. If they are not you may be making a multiple application. Any interim certificate or returned application money relating to a person suspected of making a multiple application may be held (in the case of monies, without interest) pending investigation.

Miscellaneous

- All documents and any returned moneys will be sent at your risk. They may be sent by post to you at the address shown on the application form. Any cheque will be made payable to you (or the first person named in any joint application).
- You agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company once the shares you have agreed to purchase have been transferred to you.
- Your application, any acceptance of the application and the contract resulting therefrom will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England. For the exclusive benefit of the parties mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions you irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts in respect of these matters. This does not prevent an action being taken against you in any other jurisdiction.
- Reference in these terms and conditions to the Prospectus is to the full prospectus dated 21st November 1990 containing listing particulars relating to each of the RECs. Words defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings in these terms and conditions and in your application. In the case of a joint application, references to you in these terms and conditions are to each of you and your liability is joint and several.
- Neither Kleinwort Benson Limited nor any of the banks mentioned at the top of these terms and conditions will treat you as its customer by virtue of your making an application for shares or by virtue of your offer to purchase being accepted. In particular, they will not owe you any duties or responsibilities concerning the price of the shares or concerning the suitability of shares for you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM BY POST (OR TAKE IT BY HAND) TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1990, at the appropriate receiving bank address shown below for the company you have applied for on this form

Company	Receiving bank	Address
Eastern	National Westminster Bank PLC	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 663, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU
East Midlands	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
London	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
Manweb	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
Midlands	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 7, Canning House, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8TE
Northern	Bank of Scotland	New Issues Department, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL
NORWEB	Bank of Scotland	New Issues Department, Apex House, 9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL
SEEBOARD	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
Southern	Lloyds Bank Plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box 1994, Quayside Tower, 260 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HU
South Wales	Barclays Bank PLC	New Issues, PO Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
SWEB	National Westminster Bank PLC	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 663, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS99 1XU
Yorkshire	The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Registrar's Department, PO Box No. 7, Canning House, 19 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8TE

YOU ARE ADVISED TO USE FIRST CLASS POST AND TO ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS FOR DELIVERY OR

TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE 3.30 PM ON TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1990 to any UK branch of Lloyds, Barclays, NatWest, Bank of Scotland, The Royal Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank

OR TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1990 TO ANY OF THE RECEIVING CENTRES LISTED OPPOSITE

(open only for deliveries by hand)

Belfast Ulster Bank Limited, Personal Investment Unit, 88/90 High Street, Belfast	National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, 2 Princes Street, London EC2
Birmingham Lloyds Bank Plc, 125 Colmore Row, Birmingham	Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4
Bristol National Westminster Bank PLC, 32 Corn Street, Bristol	Manchester National Westminster Bank PLC, 55 King Street, Manchester
Cardiff Barclays Bank PLC, 121 Queen Street, Cardiff	Newcastle Upon Tyne Bank of Scotland, 62/68 Grey Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne
Edinburgh The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh	Norwich Barclays Bank PLC, Bank Plain, Norwich
Exeter Lloyds Bank Plc, 234 High Street, Exeter	Nottingham Lloyds Bank Plc, Old Market Square, Nottingham
Glasgow Bank of Scotland, 110 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow	Peterborough Lloyds Bank Plc, Aragon Court, Northminster Road, Peterborough
Leeds National Westminster Bank PLC, 8 Park Row, Leeds	Plymouth Barclays Bank PLC, 19 Princess Street, Plymouth
Liverpool Barclays Bank PLC, 4 Water Street, Liverpool	Southampton Lloyds Bank Plc, 19/21 High Street, Southampton
London Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issue Section, 2nd Floor, Boles House, 80 Chappell, London EC2	Jersey Lloyds Bank Plc, 9 Broad Street, St. Helier, Jersey
	Guernsey National Westminster Bank PLC, 35 High Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Recession threatens cold wind from US for Hanson

HANSON, the Anglo-American conglomerate, is expected to report a strong set of annual figures, with improvements across the board.

However, the company will have to reassure the market after recent analysts' downgradings on fears that Hanson has started to feel the cold wind of recession in its extensive operations in America.

Lord Hanson's group is in a strong position for the longer term, with more than £400 million in net cash at the last year-end, and is likely to see more opportunities for acquisitions next year as conditions get tougher — an ideal environment for a predator such as Hanson.

Robert Morton at BZW expects final pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, to advance to £1.28 billion, against £1.06 billion last time. This is at the bottom end of market forecasts, which rise to £1.33 billion.

TODAY

Westland Group, the helicopter manufacturer based in Yeovil, Somerset, is expected to announce final pre-tax profits of £23.3 million, against £20.7 million, according to County NatWest WoodMac. Market forecasts range from £22 million to £25 million.

Further news is awaited on the £1101 military helicopter and on how the uncertainties in the Gulf have affected a possible Saudi Arabian deal involving 88 Black Hawks.

Interim: Alexon Group, Chamberlain & Hill, Cranwick Mill Group, Eiga Group, Marina Developments, Oceana Consolidated, Phoenix Timber Group, Rolfe & Nolan Computer Services, Sytore, Tax Holdings, Fines: Dobson Park Industries, Dundee & London Investment Trust, M&G Group, Westland Group. Economic statistics: Retail sales (October — final), credit business (October).

TOMORROW

Patrick Wellington at County NatWest expects GEC, the electronics to defence group, to report interim pre-tax profits of £352 million, against £357 million. Market forecasts range from £335 million to £352 million.

The results are likely to be accompanied by a measured comment on trading, reflecting the uncertainty surrounding the defence sector.

Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, the shipping-to-construction group, is expected to make a bullish statement on property prospects, although shipping and hotels will be ahead.

Final pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £270.4 million to £143 million, after a £75 million writedown on the property side, according to Charles Pick at Nomura Research. Market forecasts range from £143 million to £160 million.

The big question is whether the company will maintain its dividend. Mr Pick thinks the dividend may be held, although the market has been discounting a cut.

Interim pre-tax profits at Siebe, the engineering group,



Pilkington outlook: Sir Anthony Pilkington is expected to make a cautious statement

are expected to climb from £80.8 million to £86 million, according to Sandy Morris at County NatWest. Forecasts range from £80 million to £86 million.

Interim: Allied Colloids Group, Anglian Water, Adkins Brothers (Hosiery), Compro Holdings, Courts (Furnishers), Drummond Group, Evans of Leeds, General Electric Company, Greens, King & Sons, In Shire, Mansfield Brewery, Morris Ashby, Norros, Reed Executive, Siebe, Sycamore Holdings.

Fines: Eldridge, Pope & Co, Holmes & Marchant Group, Leeds Group, Trafalgar House, Tubular Edginton Group.

Economic statistics: Company liquidity survey (third quarter), UK official reserves (November).

WEDNESDAY

News is awaited on current trading at Bass, the brewing-to-hotels group. Beer volumes should be ahead, but, according to recent reports, the group's Holiday Inns in America have been suffering from lower bookings.

Philip Morrissey at Kleinwort Benson expects final pre-tax profits to advance from £465 million to £525 million. Market forecasts range from £520 million to £540 million.

Saatel & Saatel, the advertising group, is expected to report final pre-tax profits of £27.7 million, against £21.8 million, according to BZW. Market forecasts range from £25 million to £30 million.

Interim: Allen, Caffyns, Cape, Caskey, Douglas (Robert M) Holdings, Fleming International High Income Investment Trust, JLI Group, Northam Investments, Rowlinson Securities, Salvason (Christen), Tams (John) Group.

Fines: Avon Rubber, Bass, New Zealand Investment Trust, Saatchi & Saatchi, Sage Group. Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (September), housing starts and completions (October), advance energy statistics (October).

THURSDAY

A cautious statement is expected from Sir Anthony Pilkington, chairman of Pilkington, the glass maker. The company has been affected by the depression gripping the construction, housing and automotive industries.

British trading will be lower on reduced volumes, while America will be affected by exposure to the depressed automotive sector. However, Kevin Cammack at Smith New Court says that the biggest decline is likely in the Brazilian, Argentinian and Australian markets, which could be down by "well over half".

Hoare Govett expects interim pre-tax profits of £95 million, against £147 million. Market sentiment has recently drifted towards the bottom end of forecasts which range from £95 million to £115 million.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects full-year pre-tax profits at Grand Metropolitan, the food, drinks and retailing group, to rise from £732 million to £915 million. Market forecasts range from £910 million to £925 million.

Nick Bubb at Morgan Stanley expects interim pre-tax profits at Great Universal Stores to climb from £166 million to £170 million, excluding property. Market forecasts range from £160 million to £173.5 million.

Interim: Anglo United, Aveco, Balboa Holding AS (third quarter), Brown & Tawes Group, BTP, Channel Express, Clarke Hooper, Dartmoor Investment Trust, Gibbon Lyons Group, Great Universal Stores, Greycoat, Latham (James), Macdonald Martin Deslaries, Pilkington, Scape Group, Security Archives (Holdings), Smith & Nephew (third quarter), Throgmorton Dual Trust, Wellman.

Fines: Archer (AJ) Holdings, Euromoney Publications, Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, YJ Lovell (Holdings), Murray Enterprise, Tinstall Group. Economic statistics: New earnings survey 1990, part F, CBI/FT survey of distributive trades.

FRIDAY

Interim: Roscombe Property Co, Chlonda Group, Jones, Stroud (Holdings), Leach, Smith New Court, UMECO. Fines: Chrysalis Group. Economic statistics: Construction output (third quarter).

PHILIP PANGALOS

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

1 Put in Box 1 your full name and address (please use BLOCK CAPITALS).

Applications may not be made by anyone aged under 18, but a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child under 18 may apply for the benefit of that child. To do this, you should write your own name and address in Box 1 and put the initials of the child in the "A/C" box.

If you make an application for the benefit of a child in this way, you may also apply for shares in the same company separately for your own benefit.

If you are applying for your own benefit, please leave the "A/C" box blank. If you wish to apply jointly with another adult, please see Note 7.

4 Using the middle column of the table in Note 3, put in Box 4 (in figures) the amount you pay now for the shares applied for in Box 3.

Payment for shares is in three instalments. The second instalment of 70p per share is payable by 22nd October 1991 and the final instalment of 70p per share by 15th September 1992. Reminders will be sent in plenty of time.

5 Sign and date the form in Box 5. Please read carefully the warning below and the declaration in Box 5 before signing.

WARNING

Only one application may be made for the benefit of any person for shares in any single Regional Electricity Company. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one such application, whether solely or jointly with other persons. The only exceptions are Permitted Employee Applications (as defined in the Prospectus).

If you are applying for the benefit of someone under the age of 18, you, rather than that person, must sign the application form.

The application form may be signed by someone else on your behalf who is duly authorised to do so. In this case the original of the relevant power of attorney (or a copy certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed unless the form is signed by a selling agent, financial intermediary or UK clearing bank, in which case the signatory must state the capacity in which he or she signs.

A corporation must sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

6 Pin to Box 6 your cheque for the amount you have put in Box 4.

A separate cheque must accompany each application form. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a UK bank sort code number in the top right hand corner.

Alternatively, you may use a bankers draft, a cheque from your building society or a bank branch, or a personal cheque drawn by someone else. In each case it must meet the above requirements and you should write your full name and address on the back.

Any moneys returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable A/C Payee Only" in favour of the first named applicant.

7 You may apply jointly with up to three other persons aged 18 or over. They should read carefully the warning in Note 5 and the declaration in Box 5 before signing in Box 7.

The form may be signed by someone else on behalf of the joint applicant(s), as described in Note 5.

Number of shares for which you can apply	Amount you pay now at 100p per share	Your total payment at 240p per share
100	£100	£240.00
200	£200	£480.00
300	£300	£720.00
400	£400	£960.00
500	£500	£1,200.00
600	£600	£1,440.00
700	£700	£1,680.00
800	£800	£1,920.00
900	£900	£2,160.00
1,000	£1,000	£2,400.00
1,500	£1,500	£3,600.00
2,000	£2,000	£4,800.00
2,500	£2,500	£6,000.00
3,000	£3,000	£7,200.00

Above 3,000 shares, applications must be in the following denominations:

Applications for	In multiples of
3,000 to 5,000 shares	1,000 shares
5,000 to 10,000 shares	5,000 shares
10,000 to 100,000 shares	10,000 shares
over 100,000 shares	50,000 shares

PHOTOCOPIES OF APPLICATION FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

The Secretary of State for Energy is a registered data user under the Data Protection Act 1984 and your attention is drawn to paragraph 17 of the terms and conditions.

REGIONAL ELECTRICITY COMPANIES PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

Before completing this form, please read carefully the guide above

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

1 Title Forename(s) in full

Surname "A/C"

Address

Postcode

The 12 Regional Electricity Companies are:

EASTERN
EAST MIDLANDS
LONDON
MANWEB

MIDLANDS
NORTHERN
NORWEB
SEEBORD

SOUTHERN
SOUTH WALES
SWEB
YORKSHIRE

2 I offer to purchase shares in

3 Number of shares for which I am applying

4 Amount now payable

£

5 I make this application on and subject to the terms and conditions in the Prospectus dated 21st November 1990. I declare that to my knowledge and/or belief this is the only application being made for my benefit (or that of any person for whose benefit I am applying) for shares in the company for which I have applied on this form, except for any Permitted Employee Application(s). I have read the warning in Note 5 of the guide above.

Signature Date 1990

6 Pin here your cheque for the amount in Box 4, payable to "Electricity Share Offers" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

7 JOINT APPLICANTS The first applicant should fill in the boxes above. Other applicants, applying jointly, should insert their names in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign in the box below.

I/We join in this application and give the declaration set out in Box 5.

Title	Forename(s) in full	Surname	Signature

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Those claiming commission (or reimbursement of commission) should stamp the box applicable to them.

Stamp of person claiming commission and VAT reg. no.

Stamp of financial intermediary claiming reimbursement and VAT reg. no.

Stamp of person claiming commission and VAT reg. no.

Stamp of financial intermediary claiming reimbursement and VAT reg. no.

Stamp of person claiming commission and VAT reg. no.

Stamp of financial intermediary claiming reimbursement and VAT reg. no.

Stamp of person claiming commission and VAT reg. no.

Stamp of financial intermediary claiming reimbursement and VAT reg. no.

THE ECONOMY

Statistics likely to underline recession

ECONOMIC statistics this week are likely to offer little fresh guidance to the financial markets, but should reinforce the picture on an economy in the grip of a recession.

Reactions to yesterday's German elections could create some turbulence in the foreign exchange markets, possibly bringing the pound under pressure.

Britain's final retail sales and credit business for October, published today, should be in line with the latest Bank of England data, which pointed to narrow money supply growth continuing to slow dramatically as the consumer reins back.

Seasonally-adjusted volume sales are expected to be little changed from the provisional data, showing a 1.1 per cent fall.

New credit advanced to the consumer is expected to have slowed to about £3.6 billion from £3.75 billion in September.

Official reserves figures for November, out tomorrow, could indicate a modest amount of Bank of England intervention in support of the pound during periods of market nervousness. A small fall is forecast.

The Confederation of British Industry's distributive trades survey on Thursday is likely to underline the recession.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Not the season to make merry in Eurobonds

ONE thing is certain — there will be plenty of time for Christmas parties and miscellaneous merrymaking in the new issues departments of Eurobond houses this year.

That is, of course, if anyone feels in the mood.

Levels of activity, which nosedived after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, remain miserably depressed, particularly in the sterling market.

The only good news is that yields are at a year's low, as the markets anticipate a seasonal gift from Norman Lamont, the new Chancellor, in the form of a rate cut.

The consensus is that the interest-rate discounting has been overdone, with longer sterling rates now only about 2.5 per cent over the equivalent mark rate.

So it comes as little cheer to learn from Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, that credit quality deterioration is expected to continue next year at about the same rate as this year, when, in the first three quarters, long-term downgrades exceeded upgrades by about five to one.

The outlook, according to S&P, is for a further decline in credit quality, "due to a general climate of rising inflation, falling investment, slowing consumption and skittish

which foresees a continuing high rate of defaults among American companies, "particularly in the light of the impact a slowing economy may have on highly leveraged corporations".

In the third quarter alone, Moody's recorded almost as many downgrades, 308, as the 339 for the whole of last year.

The agency says: "As the fragility of the many leveraged restructurings undertaken over the past few years becomes apparent, the repercussions may be felt throughout the entire economy."

Next year's downgradings will not, however, come in the form of wholesale cutting of ratings, S&P asserts. They will be lowered selectively, "where the erosion in credit quality is more than cyclical".

The downgrades will affect all classes of credit, but S&P singles out oil-importing sovereign debtors, retailing, property, car manufacturing, electronics and chemical companies, smaller banks, and UK insurers as being particularly vulnerable.

In a world where a high quality rating has become all but obligatory for entry to capital markets of any kind, many would-be issuers will be looking elsewhere for funding. Will there be plenty of shel-

Failures cause rise in credit insurance

MORE companies are opting for credit insurance in an attempt to protect themselves from the effects of a rise in corporate failures.

Bryan Squibb, marketing director of the Credit Insurance Association, Europe's biggest specialist credit-insurance broker, said his company has seen year-on-year turnover advance about 30 per cent.

The growth experienced by the broker, which places business on behalf of domestic and export customers buying protection against insolvency, has been driven by an increasing number of corporate failures.

Figures indicate that 11,000 companies have collapsed in the first nine months of this year, compared with 8,500 for the whole of 1989.

A combination of factors appear to be responsible for the increase, including high interest rates, bad management and poor anticipation of economic trends and constraints.

Mr Squibb said that the worst-hit area was the South-east, accounting for about four out of every ten failures. Other areas that were badly affected include the West Midlands, the Northwest, Yorkshire and Humberside.

The building and construction industry has had to bear the brunt of failures, while

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Correction

In *Halford v. Brookes and Another* (The Times November 28) Seifert Sedley Williams were replaced as the plaintiff's solicitors, after the notice of appeal was lodged, by Deighton

American win shifts the centre of power

From ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
ST PETERSBURG

THE Davis Cup has returned to its homeland for the first time in eight years. By winning the doubles in addition to the opening singles, the United States took an unbeatable 3-0 lead against Australia, who found that luck was not enough to combat the American combination of class and clay.

As Tom Gorman, the victorious captain pointed out, the Australians performed as their ranking and their record said they should. In other words, they just were not quite good enough. For once, the Davis Cup went according to form.

The result was certainly right. The Americans have a

formidable array of players now, led by Agassi, Chang and Sampras, and have survived two tough ties away from home, against Czechoslovakia and in the semi-final against Austria, whereas Australia had played all their previous matches at home.

But whether the means only those at the top of the US Tennis Association can say. The delay in announcing the court surface and the arguments over the starting times were commercially acceptable, ethically indefensible.

Still, American tennis has trod a winding and largely downhill path since the last time the team won the huge trophy, by beating France in Grand Slam in 1982.

Two years ago, they suffered the ignominy of relegation

from the world group, so when the moment of victory came, at the end of an explosive fourth set tie-break won by Rick Leach and Jim Pugh over Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald, even the impassive Michael Chang was reduced to tears.

With the trophy safely back at headquarters, the centre of gravity in tennis has also shifted. The Europeans had won five of the last six Davis Cups. "This win puts us back at the top," said Gorman. "We were being asked the same questions about our lack of players four years ago that the Swedes were being asked now. Then, we were in the doldrums; now we are back."

For Gorman himself, victory was particularly sweet. He has taken a lot of criticism through the year, much of it from Agassi, who refused to

play in the second round tie and called, only half flippantly, for John McEnroe to be captain. "He would argue all the decisions anyway," Agassi had said.

Gorman, quiet and gentle, tends to shrug instead of arguing, but his brand of low-key diplomacy brought its reward as Agassi returned to the fold and laid the base for the American victory by beating Richard Fromberg in five sets in the opening singles.

Gorman will almost certainly be reappointed captain and it will be interesting to see if defending the Davis Cup in a first-round tie in Mexico in two months' time will command the same enthusiasm from Agassi as winning it in front of 17,000 of his countrymen in Florida this weekend. Hopefully, it will, because

Agassi will become tougher and stronger if he continues to subject himself to the peculiar rigours of playing for country and team in the Davis Cup.

In defeat, the Australians have unearthed a rarity, a player more at home on clay than grass. And a Tasmanian, too. If the Americans had known just how good a clay-court player Fromberg is, they might have thought twice about choosing him.

Only inexperience let the 20-year-old down. Playing his first Davis Cup match, he was unsettled by the traditional ten-minute break after the third set and took time to find his rhythm again.

The lapse proved fatal as Agassi, suffering from the after-effects of influenza, which nearly forced him to withdraw from the tie, broke

in the first game of the fourth set and regained his momentum to win 4-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 in three-and-a-half hours.

It was only Agassi's second victory in six five-set matches. "The Agassi of three years ago would have been beaten in straight sets," he said.

Fromberg's performance earned high praise from his captain. "He should be in the top ten in the world soon. He has one of the best forehands in the game and has a good temperament. We couldn't ask for a better prospect," said Neale Fraser, whose own connection with the Davis Cup as player and captain has now spanned five decades.

Though beaten by the better team, the Australians will still reflect on some missed chances. Darren Cahill had a

point to level his match with Michael Chang at 1-1 and Cash and Fitzgerald served at 5-4 to take the fourth set after climbing back from two sets down.

The Wimbledon champions, Leach and Pugh, were already contemplating a fifth set, but seemed so appalled by the thought they broke back and, moments later, were leading the celebrations for the United States' 29th Davis Cup.

"You know that motto at Wimbledon about treating triumph and disaster just the same," concluded Gorman. "I don't believe it. Winning is a lot easier than losing."

RESULTS: United States 3, Australia 0 (US names first; Singles: A. Agassi b R. Fromberg 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; D. S. B. Cash and J. Fitzgerald b P. Cash and J. Fitzgerald 6-4, 6-2, 6-4).

HOCKEY

Seaton helps keep out an onslaught from league leaders

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

St Albans 0
Old Loughtonians 1

OLD Loughtonians ended the brief reign of St Albans as first division leaders in the Poundstretcher National League with a creditable victory at Clarence Park yesterday.

It was, nevertheless, a victory gained after much sweat and toil in holding off an onslaught in the second half by St Albans, who forced ten short corners in the match.

The survival of Old Loughtonians was due mainly to the brilliance of their Scottish goalkeeper, Seaton. With pressure building up, he remained remarkably cool and alert. The defenders, notably Halls and Jennings, broke up a number of attacks with quick interceptions, at times forming vital links with their attack.

Both defences gave little away for the first 15 minutes, until St Albans broke free with a smooth run on the left by Anderson who forced a short corner, from which a shot by

Anderson himself was taken off the line by Jennings.

Old Loughtonians struck back in the 28th minute with a swift attack on the left which ended in a well-taken goal by Krishman from Gladman's pass. The same combination brought pressure to bear in the next minute on the St Albans goal, calling on Alkins to save.

From the start of the second half, St Albans went in search of the equaliser but from two early breaks, Old Loughtonians could have increased their lead. Halls set up a chance for Gladman, who missed in front of goal, and Halls himself missed the target from a short corner.

In the last ten minutes, St Albans launched several concerted attacks but the Old Loughtonians defence refused to yield. On the one occasion that Seaton was beaten at the short corner, Jennings pulled the ball back from the line.

Bhaura's vital double

ON A day marked by big scores, Indian Gymkhana took over the leadership of the Poundstretcher National League with a 2-1 victory over Seaton at Fetham School yesterday.

Love gave Southgate the lead, from a short corner in the thirtieth minute, with Kulbir Bhaura scoring for Indian Gymkhana in the fortieth and 64th minutes to bring his total for the season to nine.

Havast scored four times without reply against Ica, with goals by Garcia, Hill (2), from short corners, and Williams. Todiagana were overwhelmed 7-0 at home by East Grinstead. Wallis scored in the twelfth, nineteenth and thirtieth min-

utes from short corners and van Asselt added a goal from a short corner, in the 37th minute, followed by three more from open play.

Nick Gordon and Hacker scored two apiece in Homaslow's 8-0 win over Wakefield and in the second division Betts hit the target four times in Harborne's 6-2 victory over Doncaster. Bantock scored four goals for Canterbury, who defeated Bromley 5-1.

A goal by Grimley from a short corner in the 58th minute enabled Neston to secure a 1-0 victory over Slough at Bisham Abbey in the first division. Havast finished the day in second place.

Lancashire confirm stature

By ALIX RAMSAY

LANCASHIRE retained the women's NatWest County Trophy, a prize they have made virtually their own, with a decisive 2-0 victory over Staffordshire yesterday.

Lancashire started slowly on their route to the final, drawing 1-1 with Staffordshire in the first of the group matches on Saturday. But with that behind them they found their stride and disposed of Stafford 2-1. By Sunday morning Lancashire were cruising, brushing aside the Berkshire challenge 3-0 in the semi-finals.

Staffordshire had a far tougher time of it. Having

recovered from the opening draw, a Swinerton goal was enough to beat Suffolk and pit them against Yorkshire in the last four.

With the score at 1-1 at full-time the match was decided on penalty strokes. Two misses by each side left the match undecided until Roberts held her nerve.

After such tension the final began as a disappointing scramble. Staffordshire made the running but, despite two penalty corners early on, could make little of their advantage.

Midway through the first half, Lancashire began to come for-

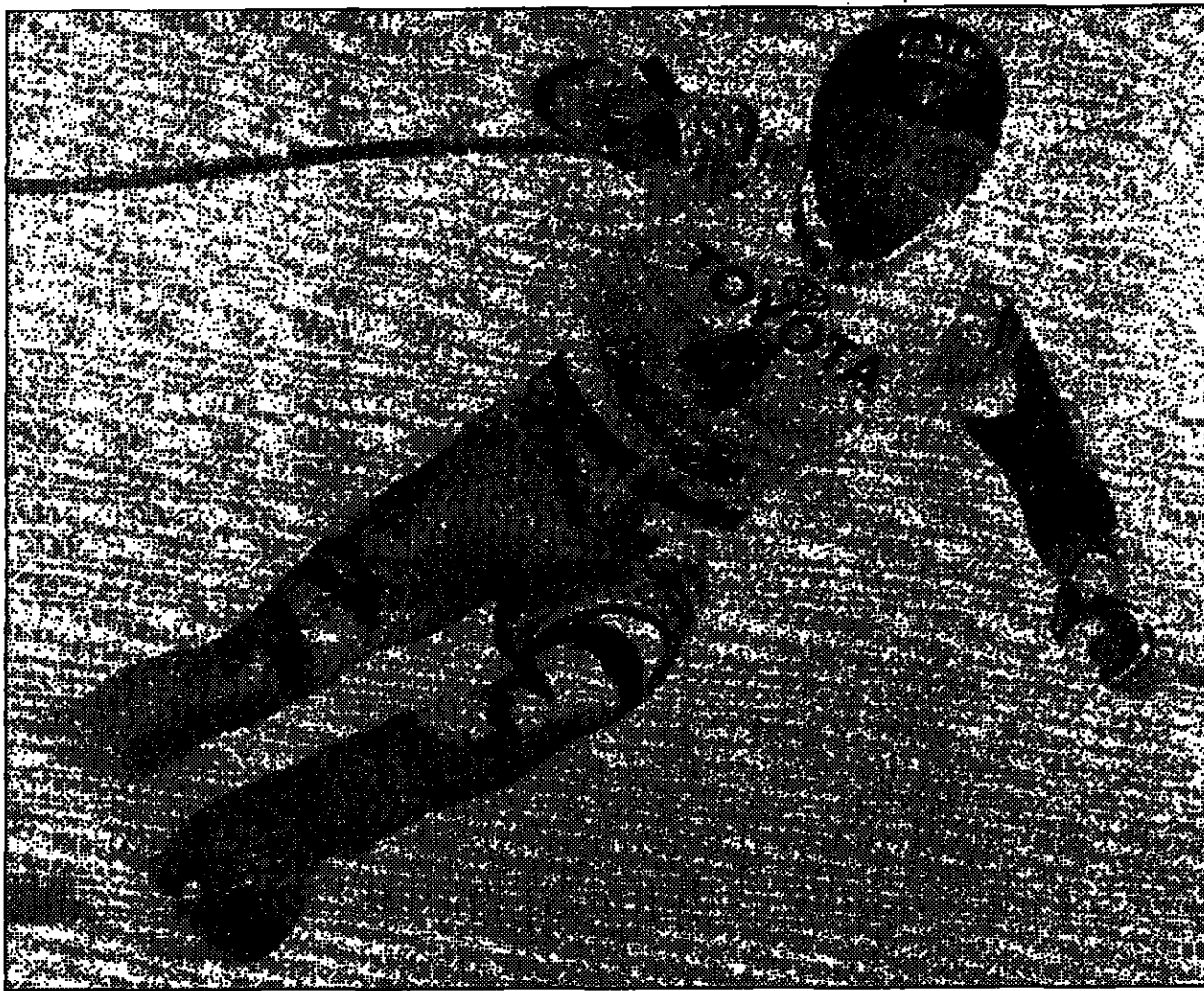
ward in numbers, usually with their captain, Souvay, in control.

With more than 100 Great Britain and England caps to her name, and at the age of 37, there is little Souvay does not know about winning matches.

Working down the right and in cahoots with Carr and Aspin, it seemed only a matter of time before she scored. Sure enough, five minutes into the second half, Souvay was on hand to put away a Marsden ball.

With ten minutes to go, Carr rifled in a long-range shot to ensure the trophy was on its way back to Lancashire.

Skiing champions quick to make their mark



Popular success: Franck Piccard, of France, gained his first home win in a World Cup giant slalom yesterday

Double triumph for Kronberger

VAL ZOLDANA, Italy (Reuters) — The defending World Cup champion, Petra Kronberger, of Austria, opened the women's season in fine style here by winning both Saturday's giant slalom and Sunday's slalom at this north Italian resort to take an immediate lead of 26 points in the overall standings.

Kronberger, aged 21, made her intentions clear from the start of Saturday's race, skiing with faultless aggression down the smooth, well-prepared course in the Dolomites, beating her nearest challenger, Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, by a commanding 1.14sec.

Yesterday her aggregate time of 1min 32.84sec for two heats in Saturday's slalom was good enough to give her victory by 1.14sec over her team colleague, Ingrid Salvenmoser. Patricia Chauvet, of France, fought back from eighth place after the first

run to finish third in 1min 34.20sec.

RESULTS: Giant slalom (first run 49 gates, second 50 gates, height difference 330 metres): 1, P. Kronberger (Austria), 1min 32.84; 2, V. Schneider (Switzerland), 1min 33.98; 3, P. Salvenmoser (Austria), 1min 34.20; 4, A. Hauer (Switzerland), 1min 34.34; 5, S. W. (Austria), 1min 34.57; 6, J. Lunde (Norway), 1min 34.80; 7, D. R. (USA), 1min 35.01; 8, V. Hovner (Sweden), 1min 35.21; 9, A. G. (France), 1min 35.44; 10, S. (Austria), 1min 35.67; 11, T. Hovner (Sweden), 1min 35.80; 12, S. (Austria), 1min 36.03; 13, T. Hovner (Sweden), 1min 36.26; 14, K. (Austria), 1min 36.49; 15, S. (Austria), 1min 36.72; 16, S. (Austria), 1min 36.95; 17, S. (Austria), 1min 37.18; 18, S. (Austria), 1min 37.41; 19, S. (Austria), 1min 37.64; 20, S. (Austria), 1min 37.87; 21, S. (Austria), 1min 38.10; 22, S. (Austria), 1min 38.33; 23, S. (Austria), 1min 38.56; 24, S. (Austria), 1min 38.79; 25, S. (Austria), 1min 39.02; 26, S. (Austria), 1min 39.25; 27, S. (Austria), 1min 39.48; 28, S. (Austria), 1min 39.71; 29, S. (Austria), 1min 39.94; 30, S. (Austria), 1min 40.17; 31, S. (Austria), 1min 40.40; 32, S. (Austria), 1min 40.63; 33, S. (Austria), 1min 40.86; 34, S. (Austria), 1min 41.09; 35, S. (Austria), 1min 41.32; 36, S. (Austria), 1min 41.55; 37, S. (Austria), 1min 41.78; 38, S. (Austria), 1min 42.01; 39, S. (Austria), 1min 42.24; 40, S. (Austria), 1min 42.47; 41, S. (Austria), 1min 42.70; 42, S. (Austria), 1min 42.93; 43, S. (Austria), 1min 43.16; 44, S. (Austria), 1min 43.39; 45, S. (Austria), 1min 43.62; 46, S. (Austria), 1min 43.85; 47, S. (Austria), 1min 44.08; 48, S. (Austria), 1min 44.31; 49, S. (Austria), 1min 44.54; 50, S. (Austria), 1min 44.77; 51, S. (Austria), 1min 45.00; 52, S. (Austria), 1min 45.23; 53, S. (Austria), 1min 45.46; 54, S. (Austria), 1min 45.69; 55, S. (Austria), 1min 45.92; 56, S. (Austria), 1min 46.15; 57, S. (Austria), 1min 46.38; 58, S. (Austria), 1min 46.61; 59, S. (Austria), 1min 46.84; 60, S. (Austria), 1min 47.07; 61, S. 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(Austria), 1min 113.31; 349, S. (Austria), 1min 113.54; 350, S. (Austria), 1min 113.77; 351, S. (Austria), 1min 114.00; 352, S. (Austria), 1min 114.23; 353, S. (Austria), 1min 114.46; 354, S. (Austria), 1min 114.69; 355, S. (Austria), 1min 114.92; 356, S. (Austria), 1min 115.15; 357, S. (Austria), 1min 115.38; 358, S. (Austria), 1min 115.61; 359, S. (Austria), 1min 115.84; 360, S. (Austria), 1min 116.07; 361, S. (Austria), 1min 116.30; 362, S. (Austria), 1min 116.53; 363, S. (Austria), 1min 116.76; 364, S. (Austria), 1min 116.99; 365, S. (Austria), 1min 117.22; 366, S. (Austria), 1min 117.45; 367, S. (Austria), 1min 117.68; 368, S. (Austria), 1min 117.91; 369, S. (Austria), 1min 118.14; 370, S. (Austria), 1min 118.37; 371, S. (Austria), 1min 118.60; 372, S. (Austria), 1min 118.83; 373, S. (Austria), 1min 119.06; 374, S. (Austria), 1min 119.29; 375, S. (Austria), 1min 119.52; 376, S. (Austria), 1min 119.75; 377, S. (Austria), 1min 119.98; 378, S. (Austria), 1min 120.21; 379, S. (Austria), 1min 120.44; 380, S. (Austria), 1min 120.67; 381, S. (Austria), 1min 120.90; 382, S. (Austria), 1min 121.13; 383, S. (Austria), 1min 121.36; 384, S. (Austria), 1min 121.59; 385, S. (Austria), 1min 121.82; 386, S. (Austria), 1min 122.05; 387, S. (Austria), 1min 122.28; 388, S. (Austria), 1min 122.51; 389, S. (Austria), 1min 122.74; 390, S. (Austria), 1min 122.97; 391, S. (Austria), 1min 123.20; 392, S. (Austria), 1min 123.43; 393, S. (Austria), 1min 123.66; 394, S. (Austria), 1min 123.89; 395, S. (Austria), 1min 124.12; 396, S. (Austria), 1min 124.35; 397, S. (Austria), 1min 124.58; 398, S. (Austria), 1min 124.81; 399, S. (Austria), 1min 125.04; 400, S. (Austria), 1min 125.27; 401, S. (Austria), 1min 125.50; 402, S. (Austria), 1min 125.73; 403, S. (Austria), 1min 125.96; 404, S. (Austria), 1min 126.19; 405, S

